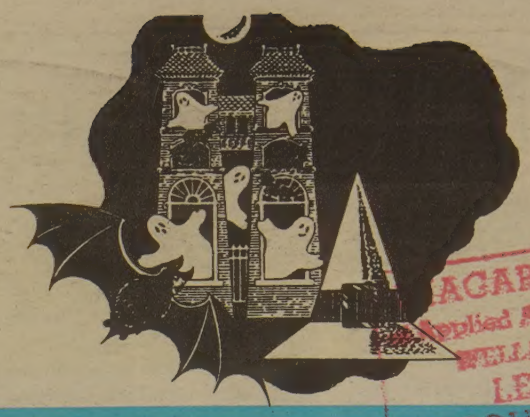
HAPPY HALLOWEEN



See Halloween insert, Page 11

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NIAGARA NEWS

VOLUME 27, NO. 3 —FREE— OCT. 25, 1996

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This one looks good

Kaitlyn McKay, 3, picks a pumpkin out for her parents at the Pumpkin Farm on Holland Road in Pelham.

Photo by Ryan Barber

Knight brings spirit

By HYOJEONG KIM
Staff Writer

It's not a smurf. It's school spirit at Niagara College.

Every Thursday and Friday, the Niagara Knight walks around the campus, waving its hand to everybody.

"I was a volunteer for this job because I realized students don't have any idea about school spirit," said the student who's acting as the Niagara Knight. She asked her name not be published.

She said she thought it might be a good idea to walk around the campus trying to create school spirit and let students know more about the college.

"I can possibly do two days a week: Thursday and Friday," said the Niagara Knight.

"I think it's neat, a good school spirit," said Shannon Larian, 19, an Educational Resources and Special Needs program student, looking at the Niagara Knight.

"She took me by surprise on Friday while changing books at my locker," said Pete Chapman, 32, a General Arts and Science program student, when the Niagara Knight tried to surprise him in front of his locker.

"If you're a boy put your head up; if you're a girl, put your head

(Continued on Page 3)

New things for Continuing Ed.

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

Students taking Continuing Education courses this fall across the province will be asked to do a survey about courses, teachers and costs.

The Continuing Education department at Niagara College has a development agreement with Conestoga College in Kitchener on professional dental upgrading.

Foster Zanutto, Niagara's director of Continuing Education, is working on a business plan for interactive multi-media learning.

It consists of sitting at a computer and having someone come on the computer in full-motion video while talking to you.

Zanutto says post-secondary students should know there are "a lot of opportunities" for the students to broaden their capabilities and their qualifications.

Two new classrooms will be offered to students.

Room H25, in the Hennepin building, is a new micro-computer lab which will be used for Contract Training Computer courses.

Room H30, also in the Hennepin building, is under construction, but will be used for the Multi-Media Interactive Training lab.

Construction of the room is expected to be finished in November.

Award winners at Niagara

By KATHERINE NADEAU
and GORD WITTENBERG
Staff Writers

Two Niagara College students received scholarships at an awards ceremony at the Mack Nursing Education Centre in St. Catharines on Oct. 18.

Debbie Nock, 30, of Thorold and Marlene Orshinsky, 23, of St. Catharines, were the recipients of the Eleanor Bull Memorial Award.

The third-year nursing students each received a cheque for $400.

The awards were presented by Niagara College President Dan Patterson and Bob Calladine, president of the Niagara College Retirees Association.

The award is presented to a full-time third-year student in a health sciences program, demonstrating good academic and clinical achievement.

The scholarship was established by family, friends and coworkers in memory of Eleanor Bull, a longtime faculty member at Niagara College. She died at the age of 67 in August 1995 of breast cancer.

"I know that she'd be honored to think that something was done in her name — in the name of education," said Eleanor Snider, the chair of the Mack School of Nursing Alumni and a friend of Eleanor.

Patterson said Bull was " an outstanding teacher" and it is important to set aside time to give recognition for the achievements of students.

Also honored at the ceremony were award recipients Lynda Chatwin, the Elvira Epp Memorial Award; Cathy Michels, the Ani Oommen Memorial Award; Jennifer

(Continued on Page 3)

AFTER HOURS
NIAGARA COLLEGE STUDENT CENTRE
Presents Thursday Night Pub Events
Oct 31st Halloween Bash
$100.00 Best Costume
Nov. 7th MUCH MUSIC VIDEO ROADSHOW
Nov. 14th O'Canada Party with "ROAD APPLES"
ultimate tribute to the hip
Nov. 21st "FOAM PARTY" we're fill'in the pub with 10,000
square feet of foam, first time in Niagara Region.

Interactive Multimedia makes its mark

College goes online for charities

By KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writer

The post-diploma Interactive Multimedia program, although in its infancy, is no child's play.

In its second year, the program is already attracting attention.

Niagara College is teaming up with Cornerstone 52 Foundation, a network of corporations whose sole purpose is raising money for children in need.

Together, they are producing a web site to get international attention for the foundation and the many charities it supports.

On Valentine's Day in 1989, Frank Anderson, a partner in Arthur Anderson Accountants in Toronto, said he wanted to "give something back" and announced the founding of Cornerstone 52.

The foundation has since raised more than $1 million for charities such as the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Kid's Help Phone and the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation. It hopes to reach $2 million by Valentine's Day, 1998.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be here, and I'm excited about the future web site," Anderson told Niagara College students, faculty and guests on Oct. 18.

Dan Kurchak, of Charismagics, Inc., project producer for the site, is directing the interactive multimedia students in their efforts. Kurchak is a graduate of the program himself, and is no stranger to computers and the Internet.

"The network is evolving and deepening. We're training to service the next generation," he says.

Dave Robinson, co-ordinator of the program, says many students from interactive multimedia are "likely to be self-employed," as Kurchak is.

Frank Anderson, Igen Huang and Dan Kurchak discuss Cornerstone 52 web site as Rhonda Perelli looks on.

Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

CORNERSTONE 52 FOUNDATION

Last year, enrolment in the program was 22 and this year it's more than 30.

Robinson says the plan for next year is to have about 40 students. He says the school wants to remain responsible and not graduate more students than there are jobs, but jobs in the field are increasing.

"Maybe we'll become an empire," he says with a smile.

Anderson came to the college to see the work the students and corporate partners have done on the web site thus far. The work, which will be ongoing, gives the students the opportunity for real-life experiences.

Cornerstone 52 is "very grateful to you for helping" with its web presence, says Anderson.

The contract is good not only for the charities and the foundation, but also for the students.

"For me, when you have a corporate relationship, it elevates the curriculum so high above where we'd be doing busy work in the classroom," says Robinson.

Kurchak says the name Cornerstone 52 has to get "out into the community and become a brand name in a new and evolving media," and the college's goal is to make the foundation just that.

The interactive web site is aimed at giving faces to the charities.

Robinson says he doesn't see the Interactive Multimedia program as a technical program, but rather a "communications program."

He says web sites don't always need "glitz and glamor and razzle dazzle" to be effective, and are often better left uncluttered because busy people don't always have the time or patience for lengthy web browsing.

The students walked Anderson through the various sections of the site as he smiled, nodded, asked questions and offered comments.

"We don't want to lose sight of who we are," says Anderson.

Although the group had just three weeks to get the site ready for viewing, Robinson says, "People will be impressed. The group is incredible."

Academic medal well earned

Staff Writer

Sylvia Nemcko from St. Catharines is this year's winner of the prestigious Governor General of Canada Academic Medal.

Nemcko graduated from the Educational Rescources and Special Needs program in June with a 97.2 per cent average.

She was a member of the college president's honor roll every semester during her two-year program and a recipient of a Faculty Award of Excellence.

Nemcko has a bachelor of arts in English from Buffalo State University, Buffalo, N.Y.

The award was presented last night at Centennial Secondary School in Welland during the college's fall convocation ceremonies. Nemcko gave the convocation address.

About 420 students were presented with diplomas at the convocation ceremonies in various programs, including allied health, business, community studies, environmental, general arts and science, and tourism.

These graduates join the college's 29,000 alumni.

Nemcko is a family support volunteer with the Family and Children's Services Niagara and a Brownie leader for the Girl Guides of Canada. She and her husband, Gary, have a son and daughter.

The first medals of the Governor General were awarded in Canada in 1873 for achievement in fields such as marksmanship, skating, cricket and aquatics.

The Earl of Dufferin, the third Governor General after Confederation, wishing to encourage scholarships across the New Dominion, inaguarated what has become one of the most prestigious awards a student in a Canadian educational institution may receive — the Governor General's Academic Medal.

There are four levels of the award, each reflecting the highest academic standing achieved at the various levels of study: gold at the graduate level; silver at the undergraduate level; collegiate bronze at the post-secondary, diploma level; and bronze at the secondary school level.

Aboriginal information session

By JASON YOUNG
Staff Writer

An aboriginal information session is being held at Niagara College on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

The presentation is being given by Bonnie Freeman, an Indigenous Studies Counsellor from McMaster University in Hamilton.

She will be giving a presentation on the Indigenous Studies Program offered at McMaster and how it relates to all other studies at the university.

All native students interested have the option of attending two presentations at 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. in Room S102B.

Aboriginal programs and services at Niagara College will be represented in the form of a workshop at Counsellor Information Day today in Niagara Falls.

The mini-conference is being held at the AmeriCana Resort and Conference Centre. Doors open at 8 a.m. with a continental breakfast and end at 2 p.m. with a draw for door prizes.

As part of the six-workshop series, the Aboriginal programs and workshop will focus on the Aboriginal Education Access Office, as well as the Native Culinary Skills, Native Social Worker and Native Career College Opportunities programs at the college.

The objective of Counsellor Information Day is for academic professionals to gather information about about the constant evolution of the college education system through a series of workshops.

President keeps busy

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

Niagara College President Dan Patterson does not have much time for recreation.

Patterson said there is "nothing specific in terms of a hobby that I embrace at the moment."

Since assuming the post as college president last December, Patterson said he has dedicated his life "toward running the college."

That fact is not surprising considering the provincial funding cuts to Niagara College that were announced within days of Patterson's starting his new job, and the changes the school has gone through because of them.

In August, the new Niagara-on-the-Lake campus got the go ahead because the province came through with $27 million of funding. Now there is fundraising and other planning to do concerning that development, as well as the everyday business of running the college.

Patterson was able to take about four weeks of vacation in the summer though he said he was "still in a bit."

During those four weeks, the college president said he indulged his love of the Niagara Peninsula.

"My wife and I spent the summer exploring" areas like Port Colborne and along Lake Erie and the Niagara wine routes. They also spent time "attending social events," at the Shaw festival and enjoying the Niagara Symphony.

Patterson said his other main preoccupation is fundraising. "I spend a lot of time in the community trying to get people to donate to the college."

He said his active participation in the community helps show "the important role the college has in the (Niagara) community."

Our mistake from last edition

In the Volume 27, No. 2 edition of the Niagara News (Oct. 11), it was stated in a headline that Pat Eversden was the Early Childhood Education (ECE) manager. She is not. She is the Childcare Centre manager. Also, Eversden is not the ECE field placement co-ordinator. She assists with students at the centre.

The Niagara News regrets the errors.

It is the policy of this newspaper to correct errors of fact.

From left Bob Calladine, Debbie Nock, Marlene Orshinsky and Dan Patterson, college president.
Photo by Katherine Nadeau

(Continued from Front Page)

Webb, Versa Care/Bestview Health Care Centre Award; Kim Warwick, the Lois Millar Nursing Scholarship; and Carla Gilmour, the Lynda Rose Award of Recognition.

Nock is also the recipient of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Health Unit Award, Anna Oram and J.D. Watt Memorial Award for exceptional proficiency and outstanding academic standards, Penny Arsenault Memorial Award.

A reception for the award recipients, nursing students, the Retirees Association executive and guests followed the 11 a.m. ceremony.

The Niagara Knight is struggling with a student who is trying to take off its mask.
Photo by Hyojeong Kim

(Continued from Front Page)

down," said Melany Henrich, 19, a Broadcasting Radio Television and Film program student, smiling at the Niagara Knight.

The Niagara Knight said a lot of students get "so cruel" to her, dragging her mask, getting her on the floor, kicking her or beating her up to take her mask off.

"I don't understand why it's so important to find out who I am," said the Niagara Knight, adding she doesn't understand why the students treat her that way.

"If they get to know who I am, I'm going to be in trouble. It's a dangerous job," she said.

The Niagara Knight says she wants to keep this job to encourage school spirit "until I get seriously hurt."

Choose life . . .

By JASON YOUNG
Staff Writer

"I'm not sure how long I'll last," she said.

How many times have you heard that? Probably not a lot.

Well folks, I've just had an encounter with such a quote and by golly it had an impact on me.

Perhaps your curious as to what kind of context this quote was taken from?

Many circumstances may come to your mind such as a lover's gasp in the throes of passion, a hockey player yelling at his/her coach during the last period or a shaky promise by a roommate that says they're not going to party anymore. I wish the quote was taken from these examples, but it wasn't.

I had the misfortune of hearing a family friend say this to me during a recent visit. The person who said this has Lou Gehrig's disease.

She didn't say this to me, but spelled it out on a talking computer similar to a "Speak+Spell" machine of the early 1980s. She can no longer open her mouth to speak because of the slow-creeping, muscle-crippling disease. The last time I saw her she could talk, and that was only a few months earlier.

"I'm not sure how long I'll last," she said.

"Pardon?" I asked.

"Umm, you have a nice view of the park," I said while trying to change the subject of her health.

After my visit I walked out of the seniors' apartment complex like a zombie rendered dumbstruck in a foreign land.

I had just visited someone that is slowly dying and she had just informed me that we may not see each other again. After the visit, I realized how valuable life is. I walked away with a revelation that I'm a lucky person; I'm grateful to be healthy; I'm so fortunate, but at the same time I'm also a stupid, ignorant hypocrite.

There I was later that same Thursday evening getting ready to go out and "hit the clubs" with my friends.

At the clubs, I succeeded in helping destroy my liver, respect and probably a few brain cells. And as I finished the last sip of my last pint during last call, the digitized voice of my acquaintance with Lou Gehrig's disease came back into my thoughts.

I pondered what she said to me and repeated it to myself while staring into the pint glass.

Sure, I party one night a week, but isn't that one-seventh of my life? Shouldn't that percentage be spent more advantageously?

Since that night I made a pact with myself to try and understand why I do some of the inane things *I do. I'm not preaching or telling* anyone to stop enjoying life, but simply make good with what time you have left on earth.

I know after my experience, I'm going to try living my life without society's poisons and perils. But hey, I'm not sure how long I'll last.

Say cheese!

By BRANDY FORD
Staff Writer

Think about sex and smile!

Students in their graduating year at Niagara College can get their photographs taken at the Welland campus starting Nov. 11.

Bryan Groff of Groff's Photography will be taking the pictures, and they will be used in the 1997 college yearbook.

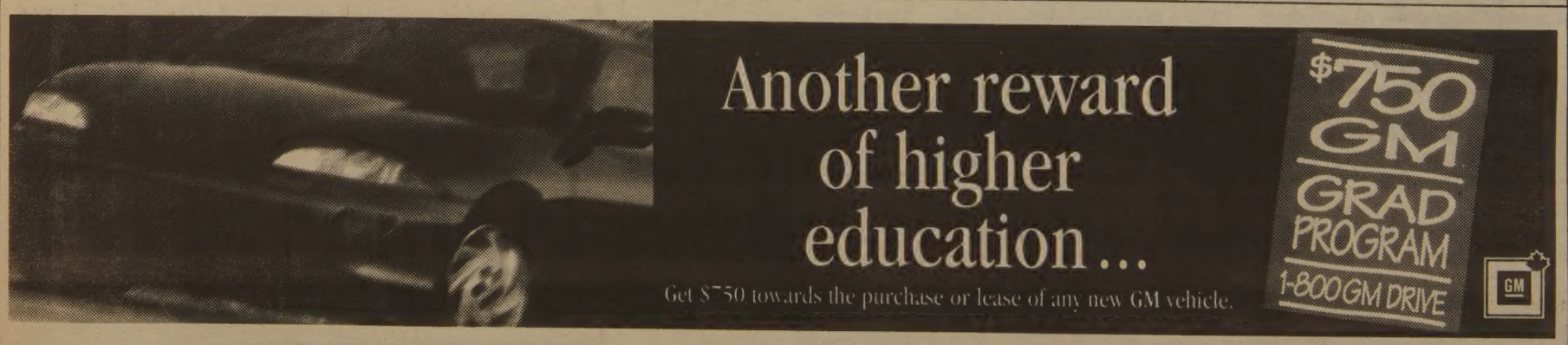
Students can have proofs sent home at no extra cost for possible orders. Package prices start at $25.

A sitting fee of $5.35 is payable when booking a sitting time.

A standard sitting is five poses with different degrees of soft focus and creative vignetting. For $3, special effects are available.

Samples of the special effects and poses can be seen when a sitting is booked.

To book sittings, which are limited, contact Cindy Blanchard in the SAC office at Extension 7659.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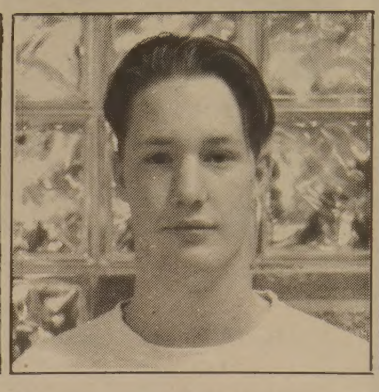
NIAGARA FALLS

What do you think of Versa Foods at the Niagara Falls campus?

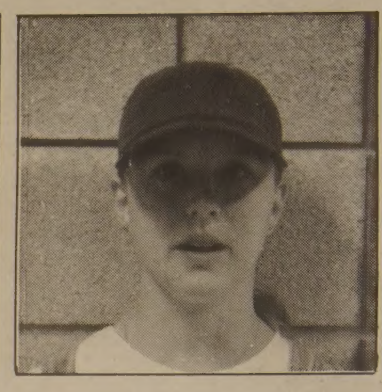
By GRETTA ROSSI
and JENN GIBSON
Staff Writers

"Prices are way more expensive," said **Loranne Eggink**, 22, a third-year Hotel and Restaurant program student. "Last year soup was 80 cents, now it's a $1.40."



"It's way too expensive," said **Jeremy Semark**, 19, a second-year Hotel and Restaurant program student. "It doesn't seem right everything else is expensive. We don't need the food to be that expensive."

Francesea Infurna, 21, a third-year Hotel and Restaurant program student, said "Spending five bucks for something that doesn't even fill you up. We don't have hundreds of dollars to pay for food."



"It's not the same as last year," said **January VanGroningen**, 20, a second-year Hotel and Restaurant program student. "There is nothing that I like."

"The selection is mininum and yet the prices are still high," said **Sharon Vandersar**, 20, a second-year Hotel and Restaurant program student. "The most affordable thing for a student is a cup of tea."

Columnist enjoys night out

By GRETTA ROSSI
Staff Writer

It was a good night out with friends.

Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls may not have an After Hours to call its own, but that hasn't stopped students from the Niagara Falls campus from finding other places to party.

It must be remembered, however, we're all Niagara College students regardless of what campus we call home.

Personally I didn't know the students in Niagara Falls had so many pubs, and still wouldn't know if it wasn't for friends at the Maid of the Mist Centre inviting me out with them.

There are Niagara College nights at The Highland Tap, The Daily Planet and Impaxx, all in Niagara Falls — all geared to our college students.

I decided to accept my friends' invitation and went with them to Impaxx earlier this month.

The club is completely lit with black lights making everything white glow. The dance floor is nice and big with room for all those who like to gyrate.

I think a key thing to point out to everyone reading this is that there were no shoving matches, or for that matter shouting matches. There wasn't even a single suggestion of a fight. I know, because I was waiting for a fight to happen.

I had a great time. I got to meet a bunch of people new to me and dance to some great tunes.

One last thing to mention. It's an absolute must to have your student card with you. You can get into these various bars without it, but to buy those cheap drinks you definitely will need your card.

College graduate wins scholarship

By GRETTA ROSSI
Staff Writer

Howard Warden is a cut above the rest.

Warden, 43, a graduating student of the Culinary Skills program at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls, has received the Canada Cutlery Scholarship Award.

The award of a knife set valued at $1,200 is given annually by Canada Cutlery Inc. to a student having maintained the highest average over the two-year program.

Warden said he attributes his success to the drive to "maintain quality. I was out there to do my best."

He said his goal was to stay in the top 10 of the class.

Originally a computer engineer and a professional musician, Warden decided only recently to follow his true love — cooking.

Since graduating from Niagara College, Warden has become the chief pastry chef at the Pillar and Post Inn in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"It's long hours and a lot of work maintaining skills learned at the college, but you get the basics you need to go out into the workforce," he said.

In addition to the knives, Warden will have his name added to a plaque displayed at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

Our next edition is Friday, Nov. 8
It's our Remembrance Day edition

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Canisius BEST BUY College

Niagara gets its say on post-secondary reform

Niagara College delegation raises key issues

By HEATHER BURTON and JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

Niagara College and Brock University had their say about post-secondary education reform on Oct. 16.

The two institutions were given their chance to respond to the White Paper on Future Goals for Ontario Colleges and Universities at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson led a delegation from the college to address key issues raised by the provincial government.

Accompanying the president were Bonnie Rose, the college's vice-president, academic; Ian Hennessy, chair of the college's board of governors; Beverly Davies, co-ordinator of Career and College Opportunities; and Melody Mayville, student representative on the board of governors.

Both Niagara and Brock were given 10 minutes to state their basic concerns at the beginning.

A 40-minute round-table discussion followed, allowing the panel to question the representatives more closely. The session ended with audience questions and observations.

The first of three issues was the sharing of costs for post-secondary education between students, the private sector and government, and effective administration methods.

Vice-president, academic Bonnie Rose said the "funding cost of education is an investment for the student, the community and the economy."

Rose said this investment relies on the effective management of costs, the quality of programs, and the value the clients place on the services provided.

The delegation suggested that differentiated tuition would make the programs more meaningful and valuable to students who could choose to pay more for expensive programs.

In any case, "tuition increases must be accompanied by more (provincial) assistance for the students," said Rose.

Patterson called upon Hans van der Slagt, vice-president, administration services, to explain his views of funding to the panel.

Van der Slagt said funding is enrolment driven, and student performance after graduation determines public expectations and helps future enrolment.

Promoting co-operation between colleges, universities and high schools to meet the needs of incoming students was the next issue.

Patterson said there are sufficient differences between schools to require a program by program and institution by institution analysis of curriculum overlaps.

Rose said the continuum of learning is important because current trends suggest students will move in and out of the post-secondary system throughout their lives, possibly attending many schools.

An effective continuum must be maintained by "system coherence and clear core mandates," said Rose. "Unnecessary competition and overlap" must be avoided between institutions.

Easy transferability of credits results in higher marketability for institutions and therefore for students after graduation.

Beverly Davies said, "Education is no longer a destination but a journey in itself."

Davies' department runs the College Link program, which helps give students' access to and success in college. "It was designed and implemented to put students on the college path."

While addressing her concerns about the ultimate value of her academic career, Mayville, a mature student, said most of her experience at Niagara will not be considered at university when she applies for pre-law school training.

'Tuition increase must be accompanied by more assistance for the students,' - Bonnie Rose.

She said, "American universities give more credit for Ontario collegiate students than Ontario universities," adding the present system is not good for reasonable and accessible transfer of life experience into college credits.

Patterson cited the articulation agreement with Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ont., which has enabled Niagara College graduates with a three-year diploma in business to get a BA in one year. Students don't receive the same consideration from Brock or McMaster.

There are not enough of these articulation agreements to be truly beneficial throughout the provincial post-secondary community, said Patterson.

He said the ultimate goal of mandating credits "is clearer pathways for the student" between institutions, adding Niagara College is working toward establishing such mandates.

Niagara College is "committed to building skills and knowledge for the 21st century," said Ian Hennessy.

The final issue was the expected levels of demand for post-secondary education with reference to both public and proposed private institutions. The main concern is that entry requirements at colleges and universities may need to be altered in the future.

"Demand for post-secondary education and training has changed dramatically due to market trends and job requirements," reads the official draft submission to the Advisory panel from Niagara College.

Niagara's delegation focused on education as "an investment which will thus promote post-secondary education as a growth industry," said Rose.

They said colleges and universities should avoid duplication and emphasize the practical or applied nature of college learning.

The panel is to report to the government by Dec. 15.

Niagara College delegates debated college reform at McMaster University on Oct. 16.
Photo by Heather Burton

Niagara College enrolment way up

By HEATHER BURTON
Staff Writer

Enrolment at Niagara College for 1996 has surpassed provincial totals, according to figures issued at a college Board of Governors meeting Oct. 17.

• Total enrolment at the college is 5,076. Enrolment in the four major program divisions of the college has increased since 1995. In the applied arts programs, there are 2,130 students, a 1.1 per cent increase. In the business programs, there are 1,571, a 12.9 per cent increase. In the technology programs, there are 818 students, a 50 per cent enrolment increase. However, enrolment in the health sciences programs decreased by 21.1 per cent to 445 students.

• The Library Computer Network Operations program co-ordinators are "devising a more apt description of the program and what it offers," said Bonnie Rose, vice-president, academic.

'I believe we put a very strong case forward,' - Dan Patterson.

• Niagara College officials made a presentation on Oct. 16 in Hamilton on the future of post-secondary education. About 15 college observers attended the presentation at McMaster University. "I believe we put a very strong case forward to the panel," said college President Dan Patterson.

• The first program of the college to go through New Product Development was the Post-Diploma Special Events Management. This program is targeted for Niagara College Hospitality and Tourism graduates and Recreation Leadership graduates, as well as Recreation and Leisure graduates from Brock University.

A Nov. 21 workshop to help students

Conference to include general information

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

It soon will be pay-back time for graduates.

On Nov. 21, a representative from the CIBC bank, Ara Merzinkian, will be on campus to discuss repayment of OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program).

Although the workshop will be geared toward students graduating this year, the information will be beneficial to all students with loans.

The purpose of the workshop is "to prepare students for exiting the college and make people aware of what they don't know," says Elaine Grandmaison, associate registrar.

It will also include general information and explain more useful options available.

After leaving college, students must know how to repay their loans. "It is important for people to understand the impact of interest."

"Student Loan Repayment, The Next Step" will be held in the Secord Room between 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., on Nov. 21. If you can't make it to this one, another workshop will be held in February 1997.

Come prepared with a lot of questions, for this is your opportunity to get the answers.

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POLITICS

With luck Niagara's economy will thrive

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

Ontario Premier Mike Harris was once a candid opponent of government-sponsored gambling.

Weeks before becoming premier, Progressive Conservative leader Harris said of gambling revenues:

"I don't want the Ontario government to have it. I don't want the money. I don't want a million dollars a day into the province of Ontario. Part of the problem is the Ontario government has too much money, wants too much money, borrows too much money."

In November 1995, Harris and the Tories approved a new casino for Niagara Falls.

The decision has outraged groups representing gambling addicts, distressed operators in the gaming industry and has not impressed opposition politicians as they continue to claim Harris is a hypocrite.

"The casino will appeal to people who are addicted to gambling or to people who are the most vulnerable in the province," said Liberal MPP Jim Bradley.

Bradley denounced the Tory decision; he believes casinos will have a detrimental effect on society, especially for families in Ontario.

"This is not a productive expenditure," he said.

Ontario anticipates a 37 per cent increase in revenue created by casinos. The casino industry was not a source of revenue in the province about four years ago.

Mike Collins, a Niagara College teacher and member of the Liberal Party, said the premier showed good political judgment by approving the project.

"If the Harris government didn't implement the casino, then Niagara's economy would become stagnant."

Overall, the casino will be an economic benefit to the Niagara Region, he added.

"The manufacturing sector is dying. It will not be able to sustain the economy."

Since 1969, gambling has been legal in Canada; however, only recently has it achieved enough respect to be considered as a relevant employer.

Shirley Tomovic, Niagara College's development officer in Continuing Education at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls, said casinos are a prolific industry that are accepted worldwide.

Tomovic praised the Casino Careers program offered through Continuing Education.

"We have had a very high success rate in terms of work placements."

Officials at the Casino Corporation sought the college out in order to work together on the structure of labs and the necessary equipment to make this program a success, she said.

"The Casino Corporation is very pleased with the curriculum. They have an interest in continuing to work with us."

Provincial lottery sales surpassed the $5 billion mark last year, and 35,000 retailers across the nation sell lottery tickets, an indication gambling is becoming an everyday service demanded by Canadians.

"Gambling is a very alluring addiction," Grit MPP Bradley said. "With the new casino and the government's plans to implement VLTs across the province, there will be a tremendous increase in problems associated with gambling."

With the popularity of gambling continuing to soar, many economically unstable communities are vying for permanent casinos.

Ottawa, Fort Erie, Sault Ste. Marie and Point Edward are aspiring for resort casinos, similar to those in Windsor, Orillia and, by December, Niagara Falls.

However, the government said it wants a provincewide referendum before approving any more casinos.

VLTs will soon be a fixture all across Ontario

Revenues reached $1.5 billion in the province of Alberta in 1995.

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

Video Lottery Terminals will soon become fixtures in bars and restaurants across the province.

In a little-debated policy change, the Ontario government recently embraced the games of chance, a form of gambling termed the equivalent of crack cocaine.

Harris has linked the legalization of VLTs to the ending of prohibition against alcohol. However, members of the opposition decry the analogy as a weak excuse.

"Whether we recognize it or not, there are a lot of illegal VLTs in the province right now," said Finance Minister Ernie Eves.

With the Conservatives approving the operation of VLTs at racetracks, casinos and licensed establishments, the machines are now legal across the country, except in British Columbia and the two territories.

In 1991, the four Atlantic provinces spent $10 million on VLTs. In 1995, the slot machines' revenues increased to $247 million. Quebec gamblers spent $60 million on VLTs in 1994-95; in 1995-96 the estimated amount is $300 million. And in Alberta, the populace fed $1.5 billion into VLTs during 1995.

The reason the government has approved VLTs in the province is to help pay for the tax break they have enacted that will benefit the richest people in our society, said Liberal MPP Jim Bradley.

"The ill-conceived tax cut was politically popular, but it is the working class of Ontario paying for it in huge cuts to education and health care."

"VLTs do not create jobs . . . people will spend less on food and drinks in bars and restaurants"

Comprehensive tracking polls, obtained by the Canadian Press under a freedom-of-information request, suggest the use of caution to governments who are becoming increasingly addicted to revenues from casinos, lotteries and other gambling games.

'VLTs do not create jobs...' -Liberal MPP Jim Bradley

The polls were administered in Alberta between 1993 and 1995. They found the popularity of gambling began to drop at about the same time VLTs became a part of every bar and restaurant in the province.

In October 1993, 37 per cent of those polled agreed with the statement: "Gaming is an evil influence on society." That number escalated to 48 per cent in February 1995.

John Tamburri, president of Arrow Amusement Games in Niagara Falls, said he has heard that people in Alberta visit bars for the sole purpose of gambling.

Tamburri expressed concern with the Conservatives' approval of VLTs in Ontario.

"Gaming operators will definitely lose. People would rather put money into slot machines than pinball machines."

Some estimates indicate that VLTs will produce $460 million in revenue, $260 million going to the province.

"VLTs simply mean more money into the government's coffers," said Bradley.

Reporters press for information from Finance Minister Ernie Eves.
Photo by Adam Kieswetter

Snake-eyes are watching Ontario gamblers

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

Gambling has become a widely accepted leisure activity among adults in Ontario.

A study by the Addiction Research Foundation has found as many as 10 per cent of Ontario adults — nearly one million people — have had at least one problem associated with gambling.

The study also found that up to one per cent of Ontario adults (100,000 people) are probable pathological gamblers.

The study was undertaken by the foundation in 1995 as part of a collaboration between itself, The Donwood Institute and the Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling.

The three organizations shared a $1 million grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health to work on different components of the gambling issue. The Donwood Institute designed and developed a pilot-treatment program and the Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling developed an educational program for high schools and hosted an international conference on problem and compulsive gambling.

"Given that a significant number of people have problems with gambling, Ontario has to be proactive in minimizing the health, social and personal costs associated with it," said Perry Kendall, president of the Addiction Research Foundation.

The foundation found 84 per cent of Ontarians have gambled in the past year.

Lotteries are the most popular form of gambling with 69 per cent of adults playing lotteries within the previous month, followed by sports gambling at 12 per cent.

Men are more likely to gamble than women, except at bingo games, while younger adults are more likely to gamble heavily than older people.

The treatment program developed at The Donwood Institute helps people address their gambling problems before they reach a state of crisis, using both abstinence and harm reduction strategies.

The foundation found 84 per cent of Ontarians have gambled in the past year.

"The approach used at The Donwood Institute is consistent with its philosophy of meeting clients when they are in their readiness for change, and helping them identify treatment strategies which work best for them," said Jim Milligan, head of the pilot project.

"As with all other addictions, the people who are coming to the program can be classified along a continuum of gambling behaviors."

The Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling is focusing its efforts on both public awareness and treatment.

"We are delighted with the increased interest of the Ontario government and welcome the new partnership with the Addiction Reseach Foundation and The Donwood Institute," said Tibor Barsony, executive director of the Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling.

"We are looking forward to helping the people of Ontario."

HEALTH MATTERS

Increasing epilepsy awareness: you can help

By JENNIFER HARDING
Staff Writer

Epilepsy is a disorder that affects more than one per cent of the population. It is not a disease.

In about 75 per cent of cases, there is no known cause. Remaining cases are caused by a brain tumor or stroke, a head trauma, injury, infection or systemic illness of the mother during pregnancy affecting fetal brain development, brain injury to an infant during delivery, aftermath of an infection such as meningitis or poisoning.

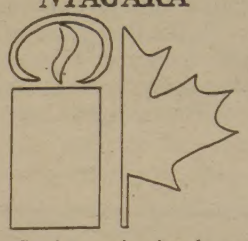
About 70 to 80 per cent of patients develop epilepsy before age 18. About 55 per cent develop it before age 10. About 44 per cent develop it by age five.

There are four common types of seizures that patients experience. The tonic-clonic (Grand Mal) affects all ages. During this, the body stiffens, the patient falls to the ground, loses consciousness, their skin may turn blue, their body jerks and they may bite their tongue. These seizures last about one to three minutes, seldom longer.

Absence (Petit Mal) affects mainly children. This causes a sudden brief loss of consciousness, blinking eyes and slight muscle movements around the mouth. This lasts from two to ten seconds.

Complex partial (Psychomotor or TemporalLobe) affects adults mainly. This type of seizure varies widely. Often it is associated with a loss of awareness, inappropriate actions, walking around, disoriented mumbling and head turning. This usually lasts two to four minutes, occasionally longer.

EPILEPSY NIAGARA



The final type is simple partial (focal). It affects adults mainly. It may only be a sensation such as tingling, a jerking of one limb, or a visual, auditory or olfactory phenomena. This lasts typically two to ten seconds.

The main treatment for epilepsy is long-term drug therapy. Drugs are not a cure, and can have numerous, sometimes severe, side effects. Drug therapy controls about 60 per cent of seizures.

Brain surgery is recommended only when medication fails and when seizures are confined to one area of the brain where tissue can be safely removed without damaging personality or function.

If you are witness to a seizure, stay back and give the patient their space. Tell others to do the same. Do not place anything into the patient's mouth.

"I would appreciate it if people would be caring and understanding and give them some respect and privacy, but don't leave them alone," said Carolyn Hurst, nurse at the Welland campus health centre.

If you are witness to a seizure at the Welland campus, notify Hurst in the health centre located in the Lundy wing or through the main switchboard operator.

At other campuses, notify the co-ordinator of the program, said Christine Philbrick, satellite campus health nurse.

"Every situation is different and it is up to the parties involved to deal with it appropriately," Philbrick said.

Helping ease depression

By JENNIFER HARDING
Staff Writer

The Canadian Mental Health Association Niagara South branch held a symposium on overcoming depression on Oct. 8.

Held at the Ameri-Cana Resort and Conference Centre in Niagara Falls, this information session was a follow-up to an earlier symposium on depression. The panel included five speakers who brought different expertise on how to overcome depression.

There are two main types of depressions: unipolar (an isolated episode of depression) and bipolar (also known as manic-depression).

Depression affects people of any age, race or sex.

According to Peter Sacco, health promotions co-ordinator and psychotherapist, some causes are a situation (a death, a loss or a drastic or sudden change), living condition (abuse or neglect, alcoholism or a constant change such as with seasons) and medical history with parents, siblings or self.

The first step in treating depression is to rule out a chemical imbalance. Medicines can treat this.

Sacco has taken the saying "I think; therefore, I am" to another step to help understand depression. His explanation is "I think; therefore, I feel."

He said if people think they are depressed, they feel they are depressed and so they become depressed.

Sacco said depression is a secondary emotion. It is the result of feelings such as of grieving a loss, fear of loss, frustration or worthlessness.

Dr. Grant Mullen, a physician from Grimsby, deals with the medical side of depression.

The ability to form a thought is a physical event, but if the chemicals are wrong, a patient loses the ability to control thoughts.

Mullen said there is a difference between depression and discouragement.

With discouragement there is an obvious cause, there's still an ability to control thoughts, and the discouragement goes away with time, he said, adding depression is the opposite of this.

Having a chemical imbalance is "very common," Mullen said, adding about 20 to 25 per cent of the population has an imbalance.

He said chemical imbalances are inherited, but a stressful situation can bring on a chemical imbalance. If you have symptoms of depression, you need medications no matter how you became depressed.

Mullen said there are about 20 medications that can treat a patient, but it is trial and error to find the right one.

Debbie Beaulieu, of St. Catharines, was diagnosed with severe clinical depression with obsessive compulsive tendencies in 1992.

She said her diagnosis came at a time in her life when all was going well. The depression hit her out of nowhere.

She said she tried many medications before one helped, and this process was frustrating. She was hospitalized a couple of times during the process.

Beaulieu said the most important thing to remember when dealing with depression is yourself.

She said a special person who is strong and reliable is important. For her, it was her sister.

Rev. David Byrne, a minister from Fenwick who has experience dealing with those suffering from depression, gave his insights into religious and spiritual treatments.

Sherry Torkes, a pharmacist from Fort Erie, said diet, exercise and herbal therapies are other methods of controlling depression.

She said exercise is a powerful anti-depressant, as it causes the body to release endorphins.

Torkes said nutrition influences cognition, emotion and behavior, so eating well is important. Deficiencies in vitamin B and C have been linked to depression.

She said many herbal remedies can help. Some mentioned were St. John's wort, Kava extract, Ginko Biloba and Panax Ginseng.

Depression affects students

By JENNIFER HARDING
Staff Writer

Since depression sees no age, race or sex, it is a problem that affects students.

Peter Sacco, a psychotherapist from Niagara Falls who has taught at Niagara College, says the stress and frustration from school, exams and the isolation of living away from home can snowball into depression.

To help prevent depression, it is important to get plenty of sleep. People tend to wear down because they don't sleep and don't eat right, Sacco said.

The treatment for depression that Sacco uses is cognitive therapy.

"This retrains the individual to replace negative thought patterns with more positive, realistic thought patterns."

This also gets the individual to stop thinking in polarized "black and white" terms, Sacco said.

Another form of depression that affects people is Seasonal Affect Disorder. During the winter months it affects some people because of a lack of sunshine.

It is estimated that about 9.2 per cent of the population has this disorder.

This depression is linked to missing vitamins from light, and from "cabin fever," he said.

Peter Sacco, psychotherapist, says depression affects students.

Photo by Jennifer Harding

Sacco said he advises his patients to join groups in the winter and not to see the winter as a down time, but as a productive time.

"Get involved with winter outdoor activities."

Light therapy also helps. A 10,000-lux light box gives daily doses of light at home. The light can be ordered from a local pharmacist.

"What may work for one person may not work for another," Sacco said.

Depression has a lot to do with attitude, Sacco said, adding what someone thinks is what he or she feels.

Listen closely for silent screams

By JENNIFER GIBSON
Staff Writer

It was more than five years ago. It was my birthday.

A girl I know felt lonely, helpless, unloved and afraid. The only way she thought she could feel better was if she couldn't feel at all.

She cried for help, but I didn't hear her.

She fell at my knees and begged, but I couldn't see. It wasn't until she was three pills away from six feet under, lying on her kitchen floor unconscious, that I really heard her screaming.

She could have died that day, my sweet 16th, and four days later she would have been buried on hers. But she didn't and she wasn't.

She is my best friend.

I know another girl who found someone to listen to her cries of pain. I am proud of her and I congratulate her. I also hope to see her at home real soon.

I ask everyone reading this to do me a favor. If you hear someone whisper for help, consider it a scream and listen carefully.

Dedicated to my friends Jen and Jess for the strength and courage they've shown me through their will to live.

EDITORIALS

NIAGARA NEWS

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the **Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-7669.**

Editor: Heather Burton **Associate Editor:** Jhim Burwell **Assistant Editor:** Brad Moscato **Publisher**: Leo Tiberi, director Information and Computer Technology, **Managing Editor**: Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator Journalism-Print program, **Associate Managing Editor**: Gary Erb, instructor Journalism-Print program, **Advertising Managers**: Karen Audet, Ron Tufts, advertising instructors, **Advertising-Account Manager:** Ron Crowley, **Photography Consultant**: Carole Timm, photography instructor, **Photography Chief**: Janice Poole **Photography Crew**: Heather Hunter and Jeff Garrett.

A Halloween tradition

His limp body is carried by the wind until the noose around his neck becomes taut, yanking him back into place. Anchored to the hydro wires with rope, he is suspended in the middle of the intersection for all to see.

The local fire department doesn't appreciate it. The adult community collectively shake its head in disgust. But the youth in town silently revel in the victory.

Every year around this time in our small tourist town of Shakespeare, Ont., a group of local rebels raise "the dummy."

It has happened for years and has become a Halloween tradition. It is almost a legacy from the hellions who were the first to devise a plan to hang up the body.

Society will adamantly tell you that vandalism is violent and obviously illegal. But for me the hanging of "the dummy" is something that I will miss as I grow older, when I will see the impracticality and stupidity behind the stunt. Now as I approach adulthood, seeing the figure swaying above the passing cars still puts a smile on my face and pride in my heart.

Kudos to those faceless creatures who brave the night to pull the prank on our little town. Miraculously they have remained nameless— and consequently innocent.

Halloween and Devil's Night will always be known for childish pranks. As far as I'm concerned, anyone can soap a few windows or egg a house, but it takes skill and guts to hang a dummy from the hydro wires in the middle of town.

Sounds too good to be true

It's amazing how quickly the Ontario Students Assistance Program (OSAP) can pile up.

It's a quick money fix at the beginning of the year (and sometimes again in January) that definitely should not be spent and then forgotten.

You go into your bank and have the money deposited so that all of a sudden your bank account is fuller than it's been in a long while. Of course you could look at it as a paycheque for all the paperwork, accounting, waiting and negotiating that has to be done to get the money, but the government will still expect you to pay them back in the end.

The big draw is the low interest rates and no payments for six months after you finish school.

The thought of low interest rates and fair tales of never really having to pay it back makes the whole deal sound too good to be true.

Well, the low interest is true, at around three per cent, but what they fail to point out is the interest starts the day you finish school even if the payments don't.

This means that when you need your OSAP money and it hasn't come in they can say "Sorry, the volume of applications has delayed your processing," but just try and delay a payment when they want their money back.

Double standards really aren't that bad — as long as you're on the right end of them.

Keep pub fun

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

What is it about large, loud gatherings that bring out the worst in some people?

There have been a few incidents at the college pub that are really no more than a nuisance for the staff of the pub, but ended up costing everyone else involved much more.

The policy of After Hours is fairly simple: help everyone have a really great time. Of course, given such freedom, someone always wants to test the boundaries of what he or she can get away with.

My favorite is people smuggling in booze.

My real favorite is people smuggling in brands of beer that they don't sell behind the bar. That takes real brains. "Yeah, I'll be cool. I'll be the only one in the whole place with a Bud!"

No problem, until you get caught (and you will) and are never allowed back. If you can deal with that, how about what happens when After Hours is closed down for violations of the Liquor Act and no one can take advantage of the facility. Almost makes you think.

That is a fairly impersonal crime and doesn't hurt anyone but the twits who try it.

An incident that was more harmful in many ways was the theft of a jacket. Again most will say, no big deal. They won't have seen the anger and frustration on the face of the girl who lost not only her favorite jacket, but a good night.

I'd seen her a few times over the course of the evening, listening to the music, dancing and enjoying herself. At 2 a.m., when her jacket was gone, not only did she mellow out real fast, but it became apparent that the only thing she was going to remember about the night was the fact she was the victim of a theft.

I won't put the blame for that anywhere but where it belongs: firmly on the shoulders and conscience of the thief who, for whatever reason, decided to walk out of the pub with a "new" jacket. If there are extenuating circumstances to the whole affair, I'll be glad to apologize for any and all of these statements as soon as I find out the jacket was returned.

Niagara College has a great "natural resource" in After Hours. Day and night you go in and find Lana *behind the bar ready to quench your* thirst, Marg in the kitchen waiting to fill your tummy, Raps all over the place bringing good shows to entertain you, and the rest of the staff doing what else needs to be done to make sure you enjoy the time you spend there.

It's a fun place, and to those people that want to try and ruin it for the rest of us with an out-of-line, past-the-limits, down-right selfish act, go ahead and try to get away with something.

I'll be happy to wave at you through the windows when you walk by, denied access for the rest of the year, and promptly forget about you as I finish my pool game and beer.

Your opinions welcome

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submission is the following:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.

2. Each letter must include the student's name, college identification number and program of study.

3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening phone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Rm. S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

As it says above, we welcome your opinions about the Niagara News — whether it's good or bad

FROM THE HIP

Song of Angels influences columnist

By KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writer

I believe in angels. It's been almost a full year since my mother died, but I think I see her often.

Depending on my mood, the situation either proves to be uncomfortable and upsetting, filling me with immense sadness and longing; or the moment comes as a reminder of good times, and feels like a warm hug after an exhaustive cry.

At times I'm amazed at the lack of mother in my life. I look around to see only vague reminders of a phenomenal woman. At other times I'm overcome by her influence, even in mundane everyday life.

Her eyes look back at me from the faces of strangers I pass on the street. Glimpses of her figure are quickly swallowed up by the crowd in busy department stores.

My sister's laughter becomes my mother's and my own face is often a mirror image of the woman I miss so much.

I can look to the trees and to the sunshine and I find her there. She is within winds and lilacs, caressing my cheeks and tickling my nostrils.

At night when my heart cries out for her, the echoes of my agony bounce off the hollows of my soul and she is nowhere.

Everywhere and nowhere.

I have heard mothers were invented because we can't always hear the angels singing. Maybe it's really the other way around.

Time can make dreams come true

By HYOJEONG KIM
Staff Writer

What if you get exactly what you want?

What if you get not exactly what you want?

"*Quand j'étais enfant, mon prince charmant était bien autrement que toi.* (When I was a child, my charming prince was different from you.)"

Just as in this song by France Gall, what we get is not always what we want or dream of.

When I was a little girl, I wanted to become a professor of English literature like my uncle. I have also wanted to become a great pianist, and I also wanted to become a ballerina. In high school, I dreamed of being multilingual.

To become a teacher was my last choice, but I became a teacher by chance after graduating from university. I loved my job.

I'm always amazed whenever people accomplish what they want.

Madonna — the most scandalous singer in the world — just made her dream come true. She had a baby.

Don't think that what she gets just walks into her life.

If you don't judge her morally but humanly, you will find a woman who has always struggled to acquire what she wants as a singer, as an actress and as a woman.

However, how many people do you think are always able to achieve what they want?

If you can get exactly what you want, it will be just wonderful, but often you will end up not getting what you don't want. That's the way life goes.

The best dreams are the ones you can not only hope to make true but also work towards achieving.

If you have a dream, try to make it come true, but remember, the most beautiful dreams are not always the best choices.

Helping the homeless

By HEATHER HUNTER
Staff Writer

Spare a dime?

Come on people, what's a measly dime when you think of all the change you've once dropped and refused to pick up because it was only 15 cents.

On my trip to Ottawa for Thanksgiving, my family and I gorged ourselves with turkey and all the trimmings. Afterwards, we decided to work it off with a leisurely stroll through the Byward Market.

Later, the topic of conversation became the amount of food we had left over and what a pity it was we would have to throw most of it out because the food would not survive the car ride home.

Oh well, I thought, what's the big deal? We can eat turkey anytime we want.

How selfish I felt when my family ran into a man asking for spare change.

He was wrapped in a blanket tarnished with dirt and oil, and he had a certain dullness in his eyes.

When I reached into my pocket to grab a loonie, an Ottawa citizen dapperly dressed told me to save my money. "He's capable of working," he said.

Well, I gave the man the loonie anyway.

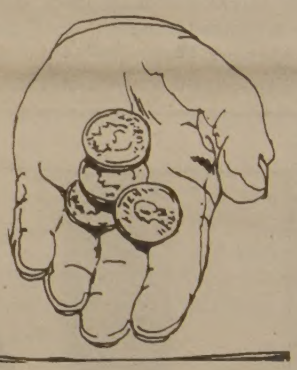
Why wouldn't I? Maybe the man was capable of working, maybe not. All I knew was that he looked desperate.

I didn't know the homeless man's story. Maybe he was saving up for a bottle of scotch, or maybe he would buy something to eat, I didn't know, and I didn't much care.

When we arrived back at the house, I realized the homeless are just another symbol of our present sub-culture.

In order to be rich, there has to be people below you in class. Without the poor, there are no rich.

How many times have you walked by a homeless person and neglected to make eye contact just to avoid giving spare change. Maybe you're just ashamed of being seen near them.



I can't say that my loonie got the man off the street, I'm just saying that every little bit helps.

As starving students, we all know how great it feels to find that extra loonie in your jacket pocket — maybe that's how they feel when someone spares a dime.

She's just a dog, but my best friend

By BRANDY FORD
Staff Writer

My life wasn't complete until I got a dog.

She's brought so much into my life: joy, amusement, love . . . outrageous vet bills.

She was a gift from my boyfriend. Three years later and I've still got her, but the boyfriend's gone.

Too bad he wasn't as faithful as the dog.

When she was a puppy, she looked like a miniature bear cub. She had pudgy cheeks, floppy ears and a fluffy, chubby, little body. The perfect name for her was Teddy Bear.

She's a malamute/shepherd mix, with black and tan thick, shiny soft fur. Teddy knows she's beautiful, and I think that she is a bit conceited. I've noticed noseprints on the mirror, where she stares at herself, and she always walks by the other dogs with her tail stuck up in the air.

I'm a bit of a worrier when it comes to my dog. Once, when Teddy was a baby, I noticed some flakes around her neck and that she was scratching like crazy. I rushed her to the vet and was told Teddy was suffering from something I can't even spell.

The vet recommended I purchase some special shampoo that would cure Teddy. It cost about $20 for 50 ml. This was a small price to pay, I thought, if it was going to help Teddy. I later discovered the dreadful disease Teddy had was just dry skin. And that "special shampoo?" It was merely an oatmeal mixture.

When she was old enough, I scheduled an appointment for Teddy to be neutered. The same week of the impending operation, I was offered the chance to go to a friend's cottage. The operation was postponed, and we went on vacation.

While we were at the cottage Teddy met a studly, young golden-retriever. We tried to keep them apart, but it was true love. I guess she was taken in by his pure-bred charm and golden locks.

The puppies were just gorgeous.

All 12 of them.

I've got enough pictures of my dog to fill 10 photo albums: Teddy's first bath, Teddy chasing a ball, Teddy breathing.

She's an excellent guard dog, too. Once I pretended the vacuum was attacking me, and she came to my rescue. She barked loudly and menacingly and her jaws snapped fanatically. I am positive if Teddy had come out from underneath the kitchen table, my vacuum wouldn't have survived.

I don't know how I ever managed without my Teddy Bear.

Whenever she looks at me with her trusting brown eyes, or wags her bushy tail, or thumps to the door like an elephant to greet me with slobbering kisses, I know that she loves me. (And I know it's not just because I pay for her Milk-bone addiction.)

I can't believe it when people say, "She's just a dog." But, I suppose, a person must have a dog to understand the lifelong friendship between a dog and its owner.

JUSTICE

Niagara Regional Police mark a milestone year

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer

The Canine Unit highlighted a busy 1995 for the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS.)

The NRPS underwent many changes in 1995 in the areas of Transitional Firearms Training, the RIDE program, the Niagara Arson Task Force, the Central Traffic Unit, the Canine Unit, the Emergency Task Unit (ETU), the Explosives Disposal Unit (EDU), the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) and the Information Systems Unit.

The Police Services Board made money available to the service allowing front-line officers and support unit members to upgrade their 38-calibre service revolvers for modern 40-calibre semi-automatic Glock pistols.

Prior to taking the new firearm into the communities, each officer received 40 hours of intensive training to ensure proficiency with the new handgun.

In 1995, the Central Traffic Unit in conjunction with divisional initiatives promoted the Reduced Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program throughout the year, resulting in significant increases in all areas of the RIDE program.

In December of 1995, the service joined with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), and Niagara Parks Police in promoting the RIDE program.

Due to significant funding from the Solicitor General, grants were allocated to be used strictly for traffic enforcement and the RIDE program.

The Arson Task Force was formed in 1995 to combat rising incidents of arson within the Region. It is made up of representatives from the Region's Fire Services, the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office and the NRPS.

Through the efforts of its members, a positive impact has been made by reducing the incidents of arson and increasing related arrests.

Traffic fatalities decreased from a high of 31 in 1994 to 24 in 1995, a decrease of 25.8 per cent. The reason in part for the decrease was a higher degree of public education relating to highway safety as well as strict enforcement of drinking and driving and other highway infractions that can lead to traffic fatalities.

Special tribute was paid to the Central Traffic Unit by the police Chief for their contributions to strict traffic enforcement and co-ordination of the many RIDE programs.

In 1995, the Canine Unit continued its successful history as ambassadors for the police service. The Canine Unit made 91 public appearances, speaking engagements and demonstrations at schools, churches, service clubs and businesses throughout the Niagara Region.

Sixteen law enforcement agencies visited the Canine Unit training centre in 1995 to either take part in training or observe the unit's methods. Thirty-eight other agencies sought guidance for their canine training or program development.

The Canine Unit responded to 1,597 calls for service, many of which resulted in success.

The Emergency Task Unit (ETU) had 68 tactical calls which lasted a total of 2,674 hours. The ETU provided support to other police agencies including the Provincial Weapons Enforcement Unit, the RCMP and OPP VIP sections.

When the OPP Tactical Response Teams were occupied at calls for service elsewhere in southern Ontario, Niagara's Tactical Unit was asked to act as a provincial response team.

Members of the Explosives Disposal Unit (EDU) were elected to the executive of the Canadian Explosives Technicians Association (CETA) which represents 500 police and military explosives technicians nationwide.

As CETA executive, Niagara hosted an Explosives Disposal Conference (EDCON) at Brock University in May of 1995. EDCON drew over 120 participants from Asia, Europe, the United States and Canada.

The conference was featured on the national television networks, CBC Radio and was given extensive local coverage. Niagara's EDU is gearing up for EDCON 96 which will again be conducted at Brock University.

The Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) has seven part time members who must meet strict training and medical standards set by the Operational Health and Safety Diving Regulations and the Emergency Services Diving Association.

The USRU had 22 diving operations in 1995 ranging from body recoveries to locating key evidence used in Paul Bernardo's murder trial. In December of 1995, three members of the USRU were accepted as expert witnesses in the police diving field and testified on the recovery of physical evidence from the Lake Gibson hydro system.

The Information Systems Unit is in the first phase of a three-year project called ORACLE 2000. This capital project will provide the NRPS with a new level of technology.

The first phase includes the installation of 140 personal computer work stations including Local Area Network (LAN) servers being installed in the six divisions of the police service.

These LAN servers will be connected to headquarters in St. Catharines using high-speed data communication lines. Phase two and three of the project are devoted to the upgrading of the records management system.

In phase three, the service will develop new archival storage technologies using CD-ROM drives to store vital criminal records data. The new technological upgrades will allow all members direct universal access to all relevant data.

A new electronics data transfer system funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General and Correction Services, will provide access for NRP's members to the local data bases of York, Peel and Waterloo Regional Police Services and the Ontario Provincial Police Service.

AGILITY TRAINING

Constable Jeff Hopkins runs Police Service Dog Herc through agility training during a demonstration on Oct. 4 in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Photo by Janice Poole

CRIME STOPPERS OF NIAGARA

Gas bar robbery

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer

Crime Stoppers needs the public's help solving a Welland robbery.

Shortly after 1 a.m. on Aug. 3, an employee of the Pioneer Gas Bar at 682 King St. was accosted inside the kiosk by a lone male armed with a knife.

After demanding and receiving some cash, the thief fled on foot. Police were notified and the area was searched with negative results.

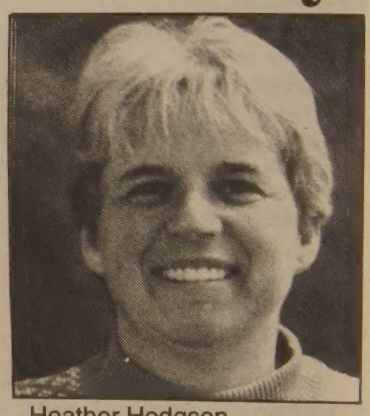
The suspect is described as a white male, five feet nine inches tall, a heavy build, wearing a brown long-sleeved sweater and navy blue track pants. He had some articles of clothing wrapped around his head and face to conceal his identity.

If you have any information regarding this robbery or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477 or 1-800-222-TIPS to be eligible for a cash award up to $1,000.

In all cases, you will not have to reveal your identity.

Doing double duty

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer



Heather Hodgson
Photo by Janice Poole

Although no course credits are given to Law and Security Administration (LASA) program students who volunteer their time, most of them do.

There are 334 full-time students and 19 part-time students in the two-year program.

"On average we provide about 6,400 hours of security service in a calendar year," said Heather Hodgson, co-ordinator of the LASA program since 1993. "It has to be a fund-raiser or not-for-profit event."

LASA volunteers have provided security for craft shows, mall displays, concerts, cultural events and the provincial Crime Stoppers' conference in Niagara Falls.

Security was provided at the Ontario Association Chiefs of Police Conference in 1995 in St. Catharines for which the students were given a Chief's Commendation for the service provided.

"It was the first time an outside organization provided security," said Hodgson.

Hodgson said she is working on plans with the Niagara Regional Police to provide security at the 1999 World Rowing Championships in Port Dalhousie.

This marks the first year that volunteers did security for the Grape and Wine Festival in St. Catharines. They did security for the official opening on Sept. 20, and provided security on Sept. 21 and Sept. 22 at Montebello Park in St. Catharines.

Security was provided for the parade on Sept. 27 and for the Aids Walk on Sept. 28, both in St. Catharines.

This marks the fifth year of LASA volunteers at the Event in the Tent on Ontario Street in St. Catharines.

Hodgson said they averaged 18 volunteers each night with the exception of Sept. 27, when they had 40 volunteers.

On Oct. 5, 25 volunteers plus two supervisors assisted the Niagara Regional Police and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation in conducting an annual seat-belt survey.

Volunteers are placed at random intersections and have a sheet that must be ticked off indicating whether or not the drivers were wearing seat-belts. This was the second year for this event.

For students who volunteer, they receive a security T-shirt, a non-alcoholic beverage and food if the shift is over four hours, and a letter or reference for their portfolio.

"What they really get is life experience they need," said Hodgson.

HALLOWEEN

Keeping children safe on Halloween night

By CHRISTINE TURMAINE
Staff Writer

This Halloween, across Canada, little trick-or-treaters will have a guardian angel looking out for them.

This marks the 12th year Rogers Cablesystems will be keeping an eye out for children's safety with its Pumpkin Patrol.

Rogers has worked with local police and community groups to ensure that young children and the community are kept safe on Halloween night.

Rogers Pumpkin Patrol will be patrolling more than 40 neighborhoods across Canada. For the first time since Rogers purchased Maclean Hunter Cable TV, the Pumpkin Patrol is in Niagara Region.

"The Pumpkin Patrol is our way of helping look out for the children in areas that we serve," says Ben Craig, customer service manager for the Niagara Region in Niagara Falls.

Keep an eye out for this Roger's pumpkin patrol van.
Photo by Christine Turmaine

"Our people enjoy the opportunity to meet both the kids and their parents and give a little something back to the communities in which we work."

More than 800 Rogers employees throughout Canada in 400 company vehicles will volunteer their time on Halloween to patrol neighborhood streets. The vehicles are radio-equipped. Volunteers will be able to work with police and other emergency services and notify them if they spot trick-or-treaters who need help.

In western Ontario, there will be at least 100 Rogers vehicles staffed with 200 employees.

Prior to the evening's patrol, volunteers meet with a police department representative who will brief them on how to get help in the event of an emergency.

Each vehicle is staffed by one man and one woman. If something does occur, one person can deal with the problem while the other stays with the child and calls police.

The Rogers Pumpkin Patrol will be publicized throughout schools, day-care centres, community centres, Neighborhood Watch groups and Rogers community channels.

More than 60,000 Rogers Pumpkin Patrol trick-or-treat bags or 24,000 reflective safety stickers will be given out.

The vans will be out from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with illuminated pumpkins perched on the vehicles for easy visibility. Parents should brief children that the Rogers vans are a safe-haven to go to if they experience trouble.

Rogers' safety tips

Protecting the children

By CHRISTINE TURMAINE
Staff Writer

Here are some safety hints provided by Rogers Cablesystems

~ When trick-or-treating, make sure your child carries a flashlight and visits only well lit homes.

~ Costumes should be made of light colors and be non-flammable. Use reflective tape on front and back for better visibility.

~ Use face make-up or paint for better vision. If a mask is used, cut large eye openings and push mask up on head while walking.

~ Keep outside lights on and your yard clear of toys or obstacles that could cause a fall.

~ Tell your child to accept treats only at the door. Never go inside a house.

~ Plan a route and curfew time. Instruct your child to watch for Block Parent homes in case they need help.

~ Instruct your child not to eat anything until you've checked it. A light meal before departure will help.

~ Cross only at corners. Never dart between parked cars or in the middle of the block. And, always look both ways for traffic.

St. Anns Halloween display country style.
Photo by Gord Wittenberg

The legend of the Jack O' Lantern

By RICHARD MANCUSO
Staff Writer

Well it's almost Halloween.

This spooky, mystery shrouded holiday, means families will be heading to the local market or grocery store in search of the perfect pumpkin to carve the frightening face of Jack O'Lantern.

Besides free candy, the Jack O'Lantern is the symbol most associated with Halloween. Since everyone seems to love a Jack O'Lantern, why not learn the history of this frighteningly festive fellow.

The history of the Jack O'Lantern depends on the country you talk about. In northern Europe, after the harvest was over, a festival would be held to celebrate a good haul for that season. A pumpkin, potato, or any large vegetable would be hollowed out and a lighted candle placed inside of it.

No face was carved into the pumpkin because this particular ritual had nothing to do with Halloween. The candle represented the sun and placing it lit, into the freshly-harvested pumpkin symbolized the coming together of the growing season and harvest season and also invited the sun to return next year and provide a good harvest.

In other parts of Europe, the pumpkin was carved with frightening features and put on the door step on All Hallow's Eve. This was done to keep evil spirits, who were rumored to walk the earth that night, from entering the home.

The Jack O'Lantern in North America apparently came about, not only through immigrants bringing these traditions and superstitions with them, but also by a family defending itself against an Indian attack.

As the story goes, one night soon after the harvest was finished a newly-immigrated family settled down in their newly-built secluded house in the country side.

This farm was on land owned by Indians, who were understandably upset by the intrusion.

On this night, some of the Indians mounted an attack on the intruders and wounded the only male in the family. Because he was unable to fire his weapon, the family had to look for another line of defence.

The farmer's wife and children decided that they would try to frighten the Indians by convincing them that they could control evil spirits.

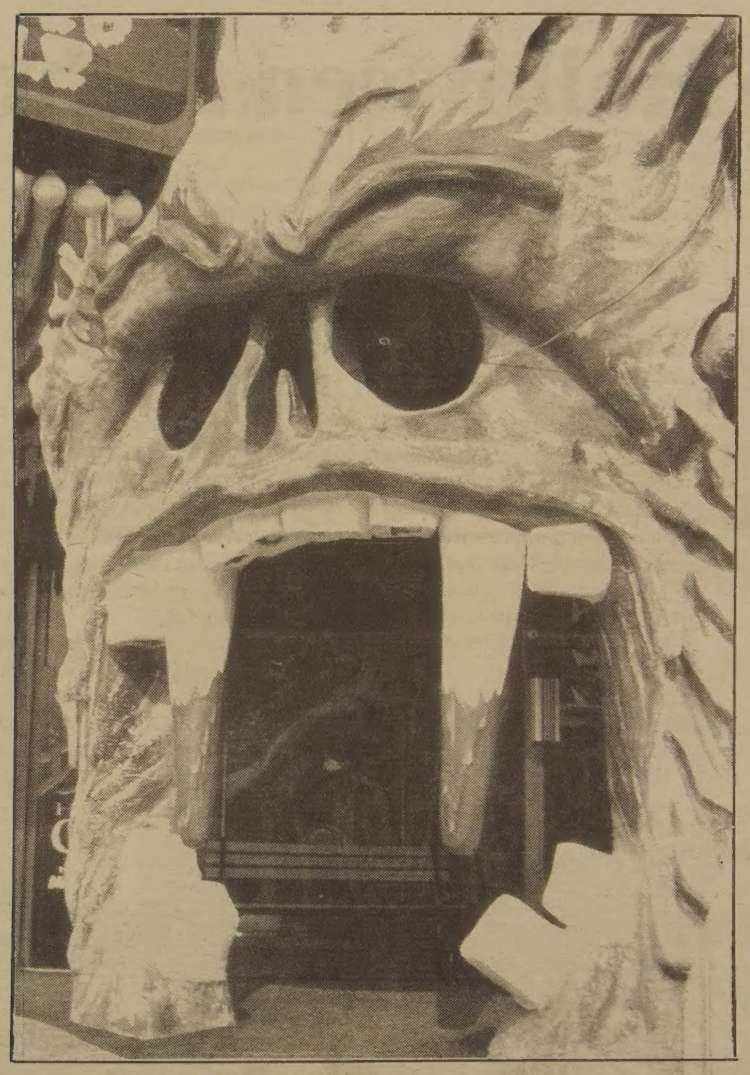
The family gathered some pumpkins that had been recently harvested and carved horrible, frightening faces into them. They placed lit candles into their hollowed out shells to give the appearance of blazing eyes and fiery mouths and placed their Jack O'Lanterns in the windows.

The family began making as much noise as possible by banging pots and pans, and screaming and moaning.

The sudden appearance of these horrible, blazing faces together with the terrible noises supposedly frightened off the Indians and saved the lives of the family members.

Assuming this story is accurate, and I'm just telling it the way I heard it — what if the tale somehow reached the townspeople, I suspect the family would have burned at the stake as witches.

Happy Halloween. BOO!



The jaws of death give rise to the horror inside.
Photo by Gretta Rossi

Death comes ripping

Halloween brings to life the creatures of the night.
Photo by Gretta Rossi

Myths of the vampire

By TANYA BRYAN
Staff Writer

The belief that vampires are evil, or "bad guys," is well-established in legends and myths.

The original vampires in lore were disgusting creatures, feeding on humans and usually killing them.

In the 1922 film Nosferatu, for example, the title character was wizened and gaunt. Plagues, diseases and viral infections were often blamed on vampire attacks.

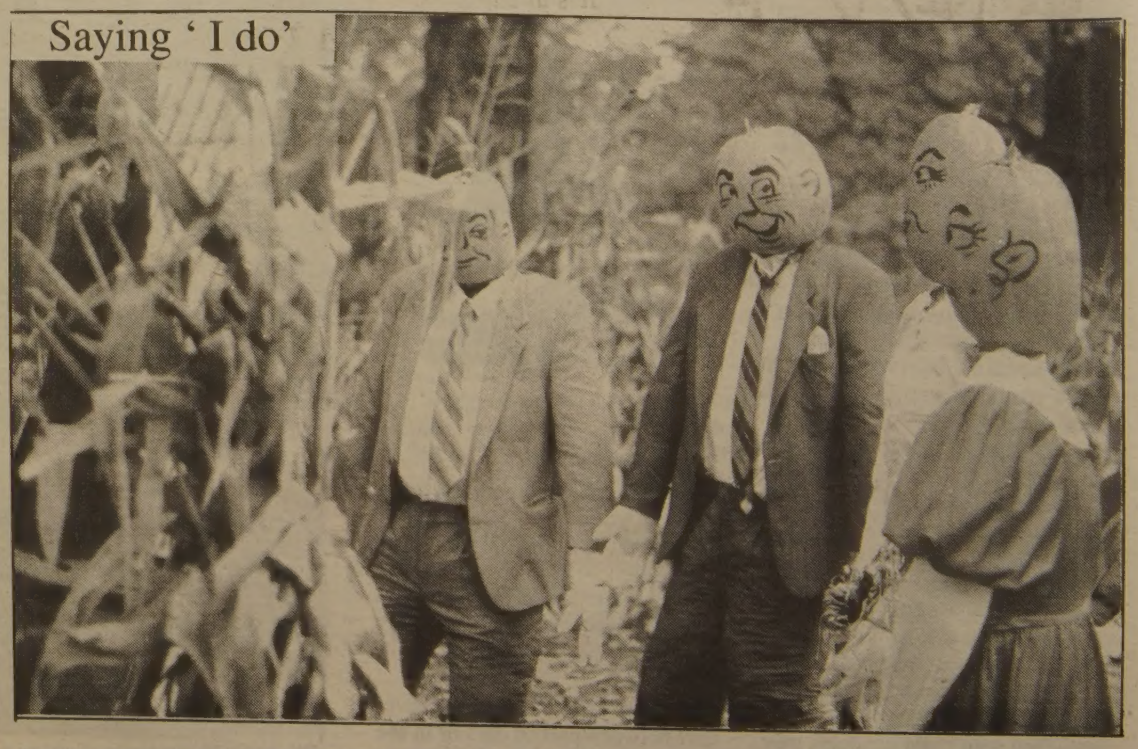
Author Anne Rice and actor Bela Lugosi showed a romantic version of what legends once portrayed as rotting corpses who destroyed whole families, or even whole villages. The vampire didn't stand a chance against this negative image.

Some people thought vampires were souls that were so evil or lost that they were unable to go to the afterlife. Naturally, such beings could only be in league with Satan or some other malicious force.

However, beginning with Bram Stoker and continuing today, the vampire is perceived to be a highly erotic being who would rather seduce than kill.

Modern literature does not seem to support the original concept that the vampire exists solely to hurt others. Rather, today's stories give more human qualities to them, as they do not need to kill to feed.

Vampires may be evil, but they are no worse than some of the humans we see on the news every day.



Halloween nuptials at The Pumpkin Farm
Photo by Katherine Nadeau

Mingle with ghosts at college Halloween party

Halloween potluck held in After Hours

by HYOJEONG KIM
Staff Writer

Wear a costume and bring your favorite dish.

The English as a Second Language program (ESL) is having a pot-luck Halloween party on Friday, Oct. 25 at After Hours.

"Some students do not have Halloween in their own country, so they have the opportunity to experience Halloween in Canada," said Nancy Spada, 30, a teacher in the ESL program.

There will be prizes for the best costume and the best pumpkin carving and games such as a limbo contest, a hoola-hoop contest and bobbing for apples.

The ESL students learn about Halloween through their cultural adaptation class.

Last year, they carved pumpkins in the class, but this year they will carve pumpkins on their own time. They will compete to take the prize for the best pumpkin carving at the Halloween party.

"I want to wear an RCMP uniform," said Chia-Feng Lee, 21, an ESL student from Taiwan.

"I don't know what to wear because in Colombia, it (Halloween) is only for little kids," said Claudia Lopez, 27, an ESL student from Colombia.

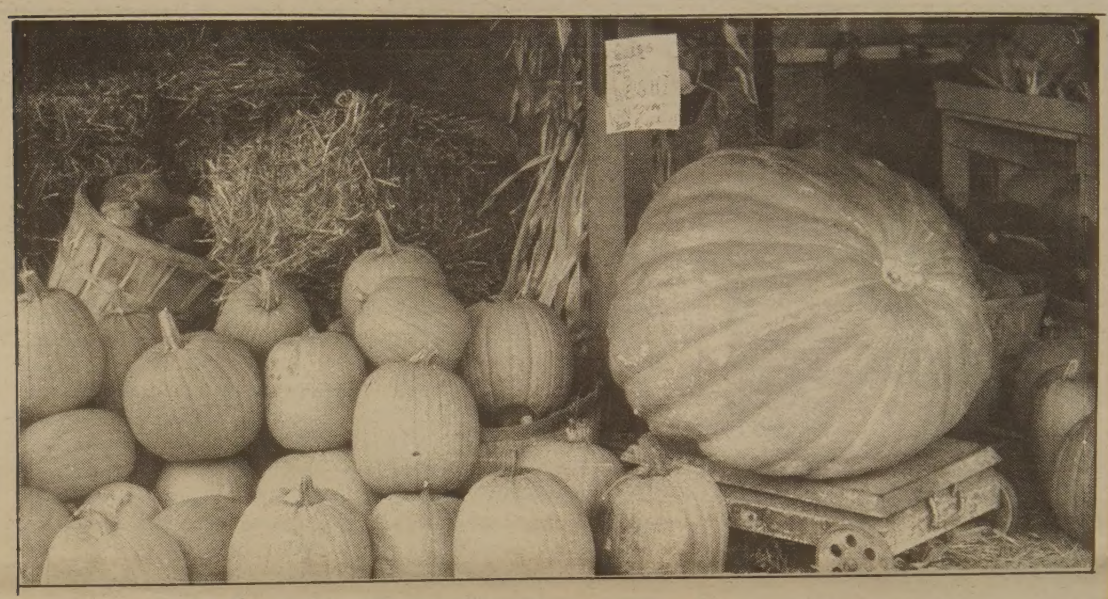
She said she's going to wear one of the costumes her homestay family has.

Gaétan Hamel, 19, an ESL student from Quebec, says he wore a cowboy costume last year, but he's not sure what to wear for this Halloween party.

"Anybody at college is welcome to come as long as they wear a costume and bring a small dish of food," said Spada.

During the last week of October, the ESL students are touring a pumpkin farm as part of their learning experience of Halloween.

International Halloween Party
When: Friday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m. to ???
Where: After Hours, Welland campus.
What: A party with prizes, games and fun for all.
Who: Anyone wearing a costume and bringing their favorite dish.



Country style The great Atlantic pumpkin weigh-in.

Photo by Gord Wittenberg

Nightmares come to life

By BRANDY FORD
Staff Writer

Those afraid of the dark should stay away from Nightmares Fear Factory in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Over half a million people have visited the haunted house attraction at 5631 Victoria Ave., and more than 44, 000 don't make it through.

The entire walk through the creepy building is in total darkness, except for a tiny red light to show you which way to turn.

Tension builds with each step as unseen ghouls hiss and unexpectedly lunge out of nowhere.

By screaming out "NIGHTMARES!" you can end the hellish adventure and an attendant will assist you to safer grounds.

Survivors are rewarded with a ticket at the end saying they made it through "the world's most frightening experience."

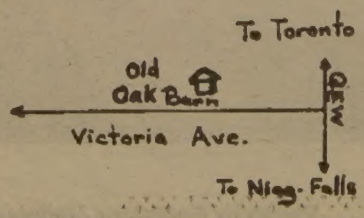
Admission is $6 for adults and $4 for children. For more information please call (905) 357-FEAR.

Vying with terror for a haunted hayride adventure
Oct. 11*, 12*, 18, 19, 25, 26
and Thurs. Oct. 24**

It's at the...
...OLD OAK COUNTRY BARN,
VICTORIA AVENUE, VINELAND (near the QEW)

- Hayrides depart from 7:15 p.m., to 11:00 p.m., in five minute intervals
- Each ride lasts 50 ghastly minutes!
- Our ghosts haunt RAIN or FULL MOON!
- Line-up entertainment!

TICKETS can be purchased in advance:
$9.00 for adults
$7.00 for children (12 and under)
(parental discretion is advised for children under 6
Add $1.00 at the door
Visa or Master Card accepted
Call: (905) 562-0320



A HAYRIDE TO DIE FOR!!
* Everyone for the price of a child on opening weekend!
** Ask about our "lucky 7" special rate for that night!

Halloween fun

The Crown farm Halloween display.

Photo by Gord Wittenberg

Ozzy Osbourne is more than a rock 'n' roller

By ROBERT HALLETT
Staff Writer

Ozzy Osbourne and Halloween have a lot in common. They are both supposed to be scary.

OK, so Osbourne, 43, is not as scary as some people make him out to be.

When most people think of Osbourne, they think of words like bat-biting, tattooed, evil and freak.

It is easy to ridicule him for his past, but people should think of him for the way he is now and not for the way he was.

Fans might say his 100-decibel rock concerts and wild-man antics on stage rule the world. There is another side to him which is not often seen — family man.

John Osbourne, his real name, was born in Birmingham, England. He worked in factories as a teen, but says he hated working.

He later joined a blues rock band called Earth, later renamed Black Sabbath. The name came from a horror movie by Boris Karloff.

About 10 years later after he was fired from Black Sabbath, Osbourne started his own band with Randy Rhoads called the Ozzy Osbourne band. Osbourne will be releasing a greatest hits package this spring, which will include new material.

He has two daughters Amiee, 12, and Kelly, 11, a son Jack, 10, a wife Sharron, and his bulldog Baldrick. Osbourne spends a lot of time with his family.

Osbourne spends at least two hours on his life-cycle every day to keep in shape. Believe it or not, he eats corn flakes for breakfast.

Although some people say his songs are satanic, if they were to read some of his lyrics they might think differently. In the song *Rock 'N' Roll Rebel*, from the album **Bark At The Moon**, Osbourne sings, "They say I worship the devil. Why don't they open their eyes? I'm just a rock 'n' roll rebel."

He says on his home video, **Don't Blame Me**, "I'm not a devil worshiper. I'm f****** crazy."

The song, **Suicide Solution,** is about singer Bon Scott of AC/DC, who passed out in a car from drinking too much and died from hypothermia. The song was not recorded to promote suicide.

'I'm not a devil worshiper'

There is also his trade mark saying at the end of each concert, "Good night. I love you. God bless you all."

Do evil people say this to thousands of people every day? If so, it makes me wonder who the mean people really are.

Horn of plenty

Fall harvest produces a Halloween cornucopia.

Photo by Gord Wittenberg

Gothic vampire music

By TANYA BRYAN
Staff Writer

The life of a vampire is set to music.

"A Delicate Dependency: Music for Vampires" is a compilation by Steve Cranwell as a soundtrack to the undead.

Ignore the cheesy title, and this CD can take you to the deepest caverns of your soul. Then you can be abruptly returned to reality by the hidden tracks—or was that a bite on your neck?

The music is moody, dark and gorgeous. It ranges from known Gothic music artists like the Cocteau Twins, Dead Can Dance and Bauhaus, to excerpts of classical pieces, to the poem *Nothing* read by Rene Halkett and later set to music by David Jay of Love and Rockets.

Born in 1900, Halkett, a respected painter, writer, lecturer and BBC broadcaster, recorded the poem on a portable cassette recorder in the back room of his cottage in 1980.

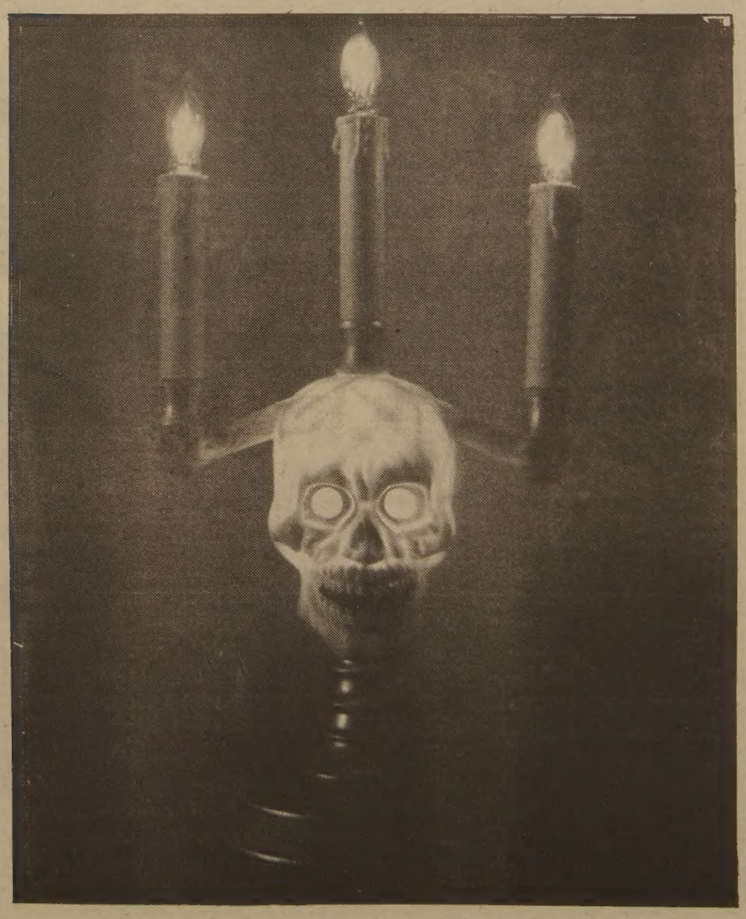
Unlike some compilations, each song blends with and complements the next.

Many of the songs are instrumental, including my favorite, *Saudade*, by Love and Rockets.

When there are vocals, they are haunting. With the organ and the beyond the grave voice of Brendon Perry, the Dead Can Dance tune reminds me of a funereal version of *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy*.

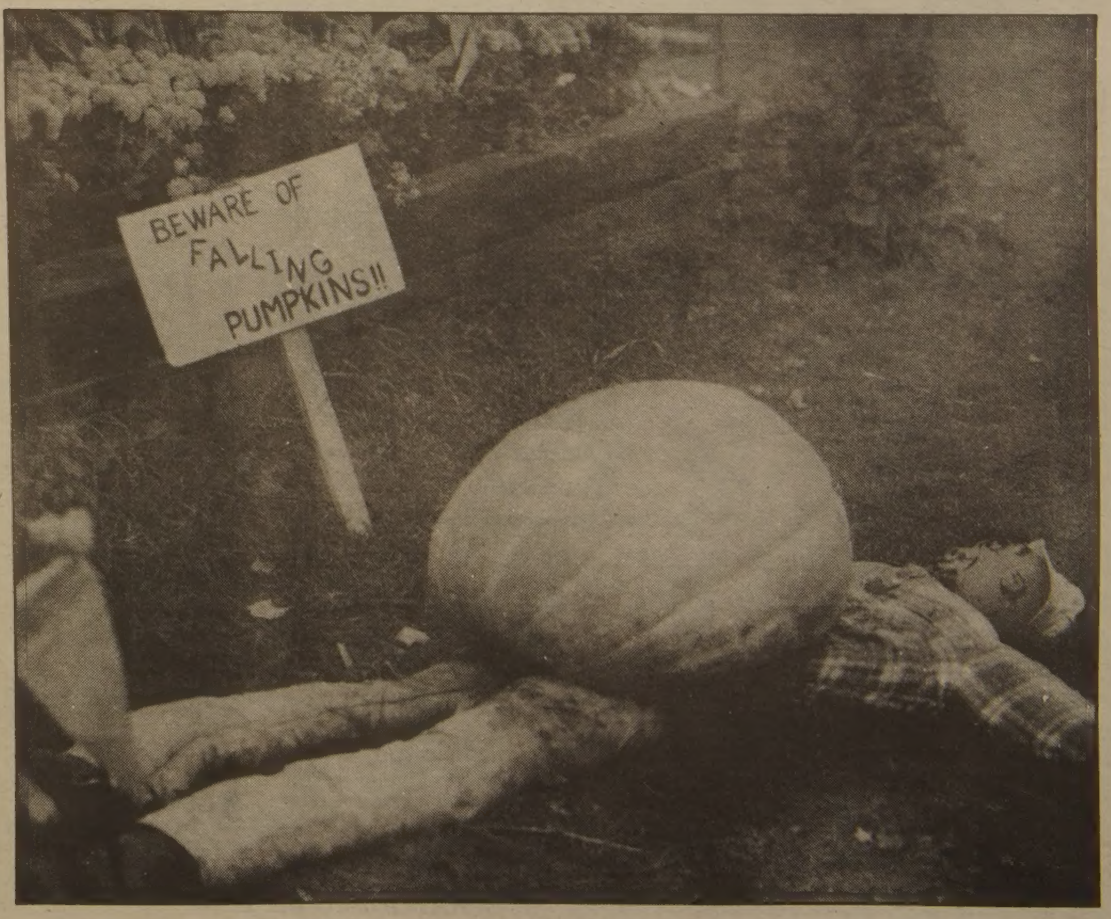
The tracks are from 1968 to 1994, the most recent being a relatively obscure b-side by Peter Murphy called *Wish*.

This is the type of album that makes you want to light some candles, sit back, and wait for dawn and sleep to come.



Do you sleep with a night light on?

Photo by Penni Toneguzzo



A Pumpkin Farm Halloween casualty.

Photo by Katherine Nadeau

CAMPUS BUZZ

Shining new lab a success

Cable cutting ceremony makes it official

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

A crowning achievement for Niagara College students was made official Tuesday.

Although the college's new open access computer lab, in S109, has been open for almost two months, it just had its official, ceremonial send-off on Oct. 22.

The new lab contains 75, 133 MHz Pentium computers and recently had two, pay-per-use laser printers installed.

Students have access to the lab seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Last spring, Student Administrative Council (SAC) started the ball rolling and in effect made the "dream" lab a reality by implementing a student technology fee.

Comprised of students and faculty, the Student Technology Enhancement Committee (STEC) was formed to decide how the accumulated $350,000 fund would best serve students increasing technological needs.

Cutting the cable from left are Carol Boettcher, vice-president Community and Learner Services, former Student Administrative Council (SAC) president Bren Biggs, and SAC President Jason Chase.

Photo by Adam Kieswetter

Donning satisfied smiles, members of SAC and STEC were present, including former SAC president Bren Biggs, who at the time of its inception, was a strong proponent of the technology fee.

The lively opening was complete with balloons, streamers, a memorial plaque attributing the students' shining achievement and a cake — which was paid for by SAC.

Top man on menu

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

While I was sitting in President Dan Patterson's office last week, talking about the comings and goings around the president's office, we were interrupted by two young women from After Hours delivering a Patterson burger to the man himself.

Glenda Turner and Rachel Desjardins came over to Hennepin from the pub to bring the burger and present Patterson with a framed copy of the Greasy Spoon menu bearing his picture where his burger is described.

It was as much of a surprise to me as it was to the president — otherwise there would be photographs to go with this column. Some journalism student I am, eh?

The two young (and unattached so they tell me) women swept into the room with the exuberance and spirit that is so much a part of the atmosphere at After Hours.

They caught Patterson off guard and it was nice to see the president so pleasantly surprised that he was almost at a loss for words.

"It was great. A real surprise," he said about the fuss being made over him and the burger that bears his name.

Patterson's appreciation was written all over his face.

The president's secretary, Gail Wickenden, had let Rachel and Glenda in and then followed to see that, as with all other matters in the office, everything went well, and if Patterson was suitably surprised and speechless.

Patterson was surprised, but not actually speechless and we all had a chat about the Friday before when he, Lyn Russo, the college's director of communication and planning, and Bonnie Rose, the college's vice-president, academic, had gone to After Hours to sample the Patterson burger for the first time.

The whole episode made a nice break in the interview and when Patterson and I got back down to business, it was with a renewed sense of enthusiasm (and a half a Patterson burger each since he decided to share,)

So thank you Rachel and Glenda, Dave Rapelje, Marg Smith and the rest of the After Hours staff for your role in giving last week's meeting an interesting twist.

Mentally disabled get 'Best Buddies'

By DEBRALEE VANGHENT
Staff Writer

Best Buddies Canada has arrived at Niagara College.

The group held its first meeting at Niagara on Oct. 7.

Marcia Rowat, a leisure and volunteer co-ordinator for the Welland District Association for Community Living, spoke about how the program works.

She said volunteers should not label people who are mentally disabled.

This is Rowat's first year representing the Best Buddy program along with Roxane Reid, 22, a student co-ordinator in the Educational Resource and Special Needs program.

Rowat said she found the group "responsive."

Rowat is a graduate from McMaster University in Hamilton where she studied kinesiology for four years.

She has worked at community living residences in Grimsby, Lincoln, Hamilton and for one year in Welland.

Students and people with developmental disabilities are matched by the co-ordinator and the leisure and volunteer co-ordinator. They match the chapter members with adults with developmental disabilities by a personality profile completed by both individuals.

A small group attended the Oct. 7 session that "was a productive meeting. We had two new people join," said Reid.

The two new members of the Best Buddies group were Julie Spence, 20, a student in the Early Childhood Education program and Marsha Hartsell, 21 of Welland.

"I found it informative from Marcia talking," said Spence.

"It was good and informative and good to know the people with disability," said Hartsell.

"I think it's actually a great opening in the college, even in Welland," said Reid. "I have a positive feeling about the program."

Reid said she was expecting more students because the event was publicized throughout the school.

With the two new members, the group now has nine people.

Heather Johnston, president of Best Buddies International, couldn't make the meeting because of traffic problems in Toronto. She was appointed president of Best Buddies Canada in February.

Johnston's mandate is to expand the organization across Canada.

"We will be continuing the program for next year" and for future years, said Reid.

Lunch time tunes

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

"Hey man, what's going on this afternoon?"

"Actually, it could be there's a lunch show at After Hours."

Since September, the college pub has been the scene of some great entertainment.

From the Barenaked Ladies on the Friday of Orientation Week, to the Mahones, Jagged Little Pill (an Alanis Morrisette cover band) and Crappy the Clown, After Hours provides a great atmosphere for lunch.

Last year we saw Bass is Base and the Wild Strawberries. In the near future, Salmon Blaster and Furnace Face will be here for lunch time shows.

Then of course there is the reason the pub is called "After Hours" ... Yuk Yuk's comedy every Wednesday night and the ever-popular Thursday pub.

With events like the MuchMusic Road Show Nov. 7, the Road Apples tribute to the Tragically Hip Nov. 14, and the Halloween pub on, you guessed it, Oct. 31 — where there will be a $200 prize for the best costume — there isn't anything better to do on Wednesday or Thursday nights in the Niagara Region.

Shining symbol provides a lasting rememberance

By CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

It's time to ring in the school year.

School rings are being sold by Vandendual Jewlers and Jostens Canada of Winnipeg.

Each ring can be made unique. Students can have their rings engraved, and have their program name added.

Students can choose between a variety of genuine and synthetic stones.

The rings cost $200 and up. The price varies because of the karat of the gold, the size of the stone and by the added engravings.

But don't let the price hinder your choice. Students only have to pay $50 upfront, and the rest of the money in instalments.

Jostens is offering a 10 per cent discount as a special promotion. The rings are custom made, take six to eight weeks for delivery, and are guarented for life.

'The purchase of a class ring is a symbol of achievement.'

"The purchase of a class ring is a symbol of acheivement," said Heather Cairnie of Jostens Canada.

The rings go on sale Oct. 29 and Oct. 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Niagara College book store at the Welland campus.

Just a reminder to donate

By DEBRA BRIGHT
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 2, Wellanders are being asked to open their hearts — and their cupboards — to donate to a citywide food drive.

Several volunteers will be going door-to-door to collect the donations. You don't even have to answer the door. If you prefer, just leave a bag of non-perishable goods on the front porch.

John Craig, Marcel Turpin and Peter Hoageterp are three concerned individuals who are responsible for co-ordinating the drive, which has been a success in previous years.

The recipients of the food drive are the Open Arms Mission, the Community Resource Action Centre and the Salvation Army.

Capt. Robert A. McClelland, of the Open Arms Mission, said cash donations are always appreciated.

Operating costs at the mission total $5,000 monthly, "just to keep the doors open," he said.

Besides providing food for people in need, the Open Arms Mission has a clothing room and serves a nutritious, hot meal on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., said McClelland.

The food bank and clothing room are open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

In addition to these services, the Open Arms Mission is open Monday through Friday from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. for coffee, donuts and fellowship.

"Many people who visit the mission are out-patients for many forms of disability, such as mental, physical and substance abuse," said McClelland."

The mission has several hundred registered users, with only one-third of those being infrequent users.

Murder and Arrest

By HEATHER HUNTER
Staff Writer

The United Way of South Niagara will end the month with a murder and an arrest.

Welland and Port Colborne people will be arrested today and taken to the United Way jail.

United Way judges will set bail (a donation) to facilitate his or her release.

For a fee, have someone arrested and freed all in the same day for a great cause.

United Way of South Niagara is in its fourth week of the 1996 campaign

On Saturday at Rose City Seniors Centre in Welland, there will be a mysterious murder.

With a Halloween theme, dinner, spirits, and a murder, Rose City Seniors Centre will never be the same.

Tickets costs $50 with proceeds going to Welland and Pelham Chamber of Commerce, Welland Hospital Foundation, and United Way of South Niagara.

United Way of South Niagara is in its fourth week of the 1996 campaign. Donations to date show a growth of $12,527 over last year.

During October and into November, United Way coin boxes will be available at banks and retail outlets, giving people the opportunity to drop their loose change in support of the United Way campaign.

Canada Games 2001

By HEATHER BURTON
Staff Writer

A Niagara College official is playing a key role in trying to bring the Canada Games 2001 to the Niagara Region.

Lyn Russo, the college's director of communications and planning, is a member of the community relations/media comm.ttee for Team Niagara.

Hamilton, London, North York, Ottawa, Scarborough, Sudbury, Whitby and Niagara are vying to host the Canada Games 2001 in August of that year.

The event "is an absolutely fabulous opportunity for our students," says Russo.

Niagara College students and staff will have the opportunity to be involved in the preparation and running of the games, Russo stated in a written submission given to the Niagara College Board of Governors on Oct. 17.

The Canada Games 2001 will be the "major focus" for programs such as Law and Security Administration, Cultural Resources Management and Tourism - Tours and Attractions, among others.

The Bid for the Canada Games 2001
NIAGARA
L'organisation des Jeux du Canada de 2001 une soumission

"The practical experience is great for their (the students') resumes," says Russo.

Team Niagara, a committee of 100 volunteers, has adopted the concept of "showing the region and not just the games."

Things uniquely Niagara, such as the natural landscape and vegetation, will be emphasized with the help of the Niagara Parks Commission and the Niagara Horticultural Society.

"We're going after 100 per cent (community) participation."

About 4,600 athletes and 2,000 officials and visitors will stay in the region for the two-week period of the games. More than 8,000 volunteers will be required to help run the event, which is guaranteed to make a profit for the Niagara Region.

On Dec. 20, the province will recommend three municipalities to the Canada Games Council and in June 1997, the Canada Games Council will announce the host site.

Let the games begin.

The University Women's Club members from left are; Ilse Marotta, sorting convenor, Joanna Manning, book sale convener, and Rosina Popp, specials convener.

Photo by Samantha Goldwin

Don't miss out

By SAMANTHA GOLDWIN
Staff Writer

The Welland and District University Women's Club will holds its annual book sale at Niagara College on Nov. 2.

"People line up outside at 8 a.m., but doors don't open until 9 a.m.," said Joanna Manning, this year's book sale convener. "They are just waiting to get in."

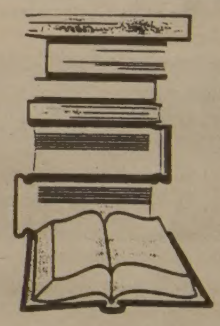
Thousands of books, magazines, music, CD's and vinyl will be on sale at the cafeteria in the Black Walnut building from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Most of the books will be priced between 10 cents and $2," said Manning. "There is a specials section — books that were $40 could be as low as $5."

Donations come from everywhere. There is everything, from hardcover fiction, Canadiana, children's books, to plenty of How-To Books, said Manning.

"There's travel books, touch up on your psychology or relax with a magazine."

Proceeds from the sale enable the University's Women's Club to give annual scholarships for female students from the Welland, Port Colborne, Pelham area, who will be studying at Canadian universities.



"Last year we made about $4,000. This year we're looking to meet an amount of $6,000 from the book sale," said Manning.

There will be about 40 members of the women's club participating in the book sale, doing everything from sorting books to selling.

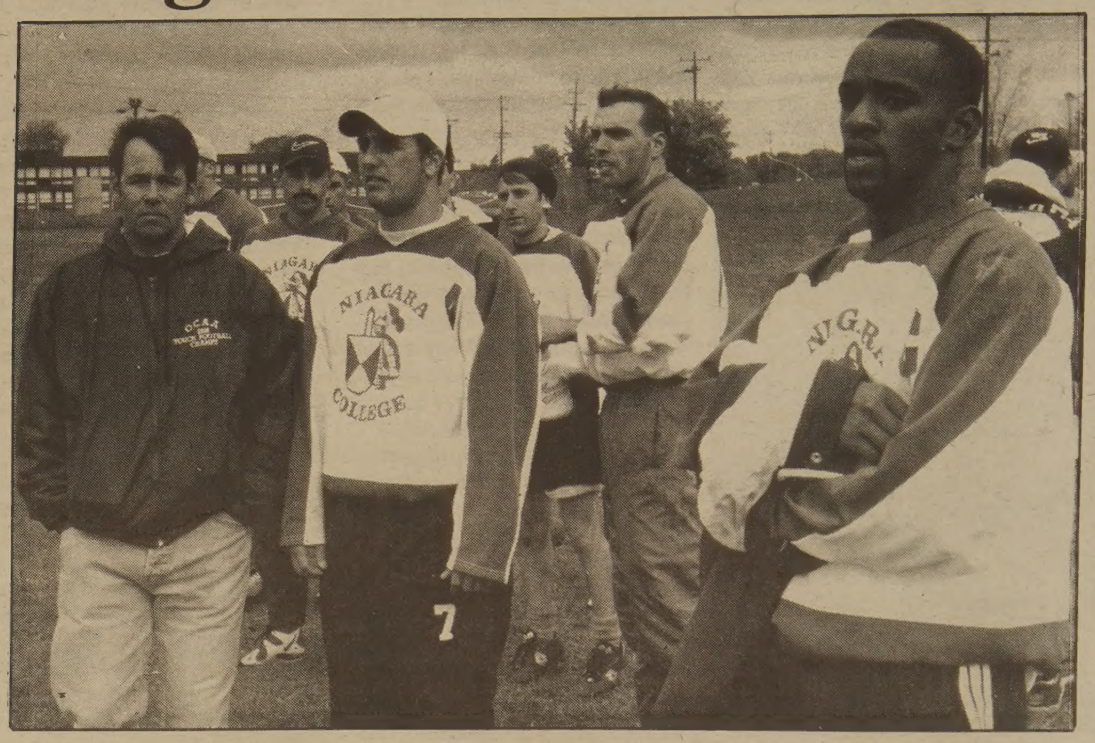
"You'll see people carrying out not just one book, but boxes of books," said Manning.

"Don't miss out on the 27th annual book sale, it's one of the highly known events of this year in the area."

Niagara News tips? Call us at 735-2211 ext. 7748, 7749, 7750

SPORTS

Niagara touch football finishes third



Coach Randy Conlon expresses the intense moment as the members of the touch football team look on as the game ends. The Knights won the game 19-17, but placed third in the tournament held at Lambton College in Sarnia.

Photo by Penni Toneguzzo

By JASON YOUNG
Staff Writer

The Niagara College touch football team lost its title and finished third in the province with a bronze medal.

The team participated in an Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA) tournament on Oct. 19 in Sarnia.

In the first game of the tournament, the Niagara played St. Lawrence College from Kingston and lost 27-6.

Scoring the touchdown for Niagara was Larry Bone from quarterback Tom Marazzo.

"I guess offensively we struggled," said head coach Randy Conlon. "Defensively I thought we played well in the first game, even though they (Kingston) scored 27 points."

Conlon said on their best day Niagara wasn't going to beat Kingston.

> ***'I guess offensively we struggled. Defensively I thought we played well...' -Randy Conlon***

The Knights then played St. Lawrence College from Cornwall for a bronze medal in the second game of the tournament.

After giving up a 17-6 lead with seven minutes to go, Niagara came back to win 19-17.

Andy Medhurst replaced Tom Marazzo as quarterback and orchestrated a fourth-quarter comeback.

"He (Medhurst) came off the bench in the fourth quarter with seven minutes to go and down two touchdowns," said Conlon. "He marched us both times and Larry Bone made a great catch on the final play of the game."

Randy Syer contributed with two touchdowns along with Bone's game winning touchdown.

Andrew Rivers led the defense in the tournament with two interceptions, while Steve Grujic and Syer both had single interceptions.

"Andrew Rivers had an excellent tournament on defense," said Conlon. "Randy Syer did a really good job because he played both offense and defense."

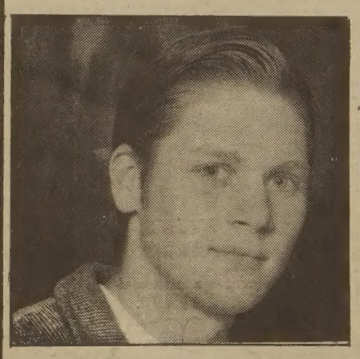
Niagara's league all-stars were Larry Bone on offense and Gerald "G-Spot" Dixon on defense. Dixon had 11 sacks in two games.

Team captain Syer said the team played good for being mostly rookies, but they weren't a championship calibre team.

"Next year we'll bring back what is rightfully ours (OCAA gold medal),"said Syer.

"The highlight of the tournment was to see Andy (Medhurst) do what he did," said Conlon. "I was really happy for him as well as the rest of the team."

Yankees versus Braves in World Series



A storybook World Series

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Baseball's past versus baseball's present.

The New York Yankees against the Atlanta Braves.

How corny is this?

Major League Baseball executives couldn't of asked for anything better.

The most storied franchise in baseball with names like Mantle, DiMaggio, and Ruth.

All of which are legends of the game and World Series champions with the Yankees.

With a record 23 World Series titles, the pin stripers are definitely baseball's top team of the past.

On the other hand, the Atlanta Braves have appeared in four of the last five fall classics.

They are the defending champions and have arguably the best pitching rotation in baseball.

The Braves are the team of the 1990s and the Yankees are

> ***With a record 23 World Series titles...***

the team with the history. It makes you wonder if it's what baseball's big boys wanted.

It makes sense, baseball has been in the dog house with its fans since the players' strike in 1994.

America's so called "pastime" has lost even the dedicated viewers the last couple of years.

The Cleveland Indians had a chance to save baseball, but Albert Belle's rampage in the middle of the season tarnished baseball, and the Indians struck out.

The Baltimore Orioles had the same chance, but Roberto Alomar decided to whisper sweet nothings (among other things) into an umpire's ear and that helped eliminate the Orioles.

So why not the Yankees versus the Braves, bring back America's pastime and add the team that has dominated the 1990s.

A storybook ending has been selected for baseball. It's how baseball executives wanted it.

Women's volleyball team have a tough home game

By GEORGE SNYDER
Staff Writter

It was not a particularly good night for the Niagara College women's volleyball team on Oct. 17.

The women lost to D'Youville College of Buffalo, N.Y., three games to two. The third exhibition game of the season saw Niagara lose two of five sets.

The women lost their first set 15-1 and looked outmatched at the start. The second set became more competitive for the Knights, although they lost 15-11.

It wasn't until late in the game Niagara came to life winning the third set 15-7, forcing a fourth set, in which Niagara also claimed victory 15-11.

Both teams had two wins, although Niagara was competitive in the fifth set; they lost 15-13.

Lurra Chatterton, Niagara's captain, said "the team is improving, and adjusting well."

Chatterton said "it takes time to know each other."

The Knights squad has a host of rookies this year, including Andrea Rive who stressed "team work, and adjusting" will help the club.

Women's volleyball team make it to consolation finals

By GEORGE SNYDER
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights made it to the consolation finals in women's volleyball at a tournament in Oakville last weekend.

The Knights, who started off in pool B in the Sheridan College tournament, surprised a few teams beating Centennial College from Scarborough 16-14 and 15-12 in the best of three sets.

The wins sent Niagara into the consolation finals against Loyalist College of Belleville. The Lady Knights, who played 13 hours before the finals, were beaten by the Belleville squad 15-9 and 15-7.

The women started playing at 9 a.m. Saturday and used their entire bench through the 14 hours of action.

The Niagara squad was directed by Andrea Bieliunas, the assistant coach, who worked alone with the girls.

Head coach Carolyn Schatz, who was absent from the tournament, predicted this week "a strong season" from the Niagara squad.

"The team is doing a great job, and has a real commitment to the sport," she said.

The women open their regular season at home on Saturday, Nov. 2 against Lambton College from Sarnia at 1 p.m.

Warming up for new season

By JASON YOUNG
Staff Writer

Niagara College athletics is warming up for what may be one of our best years.

Most of the teams begin the regular season in November.

The women's basketball team starts by playing Humber College from Etobicoke in Toronto on Nov. 20.

The men's basketball team faces Lambton College from Sarnia on Nov. 29 at 8 p.m. at Niagara.

The women's volleyball team plays Lambton College on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 1 p.m., while the men's volleyball team plays Redeemer College from Anchaster on Saturday, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. Both games will be played in the college's gymnasium in the Mackenzie building.

The badminton, curling and men/women's indoor soccer teams get underway in February and March.

Admission to any home games is $1 for students with identification and $2 for those without. Children aged 12 and under are admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

Old day charm in small town festival

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Ball's Falls Historical Park is a place where the hills are more than just hills, and where the wise trees whisper secrets to those who are willing to listen.

In sober autumn, this rustic site speaks of a longing sadness over a lost, simpler time, and the wholesome picturesque beauty of a mild and soft-spoken setting.

This is the 22nd year this lovely location has hosted the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival Craft Show which took place from Oct. 11 to 14.

Just south of sleepy Vineland, the park is perched upon the Niagara Escarpment at the end of a winding, tree-stuffed lane that stems off Regional Road 24.

The air was of course crisp, but warming with the sweet smell of steaming apple cider and cinnamon-sprinkled, fresh-baked fritters.

The four-day festival featured a varied collection of about 145 exhibitors, some from as far away as Quebec, Alberta and New Brunswick. It is the largest fundraiser put on by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), says the festival's convenor Christine Hayward.

She says many of the 34 parks under the NPCA's care don't charge entry fees to visitors so "all the money raised (by the festival) helps offset the parks, where there is no admission to get in."

Hayward, also curator of the rustic site, says the festival is an "important event" for the local economy. "We have exhibitors that are coming to the area. They're staying in our hotels. They're eating at our restaurants. Visitors that are coming to the area, are spending the day, so it's bound to have an effect on the local economy."

But at this event, commerce somehow doesn't seem to be as important as the historical spirit of this occasion.

The sense of history here is more moving than any monetary concerns, or even the strumming melodies of the minstrels and hearty blue-grass bands. One senses the history in the blushing autumn branches and crackling of leaves underfoot of the placid patrons, as they soak in the artistry and the history.

"It seems like a friendly type of people at this thing," says exhibitor Don Higgins, now in his third year at the festival. Higgins is here to juggle and promote his display of Great Canadian Balls.

He has an intent audience. Little painted faces are gazing up at him as he lobs his bright balls—faces painted by the festivals resident clown Cathi Hebbard. Donning a sunny smile and the standard red snout, she gingerly works her way stroke by stroke through a lengthy line of squirming children, all anxious for a tickling touch of her brush.

Meanwhile, a stately gentleman with a meticulous white beard, clad in a striking royal blue uniform and wearing the chain of office of town crier, is making his rounds. Leisurely, yet distinctly, he strolls about the park, while periodically pulling a watch out from one of the many secret folds in his tunic and checking whether it is time to bellow out the next call regarding the day's upcoming activities.

He's Derek Tidd, official town crier of Niagara Falls for almost a year now, here by special request to mark the hours and accent the occasion with a olde-English charm.

"I think it's very well done," he says of this years festival. "The ingenuity of man is somewhat amazing, with all these assorted crafts and such."

The creative cast of merchants he refers to are all sheltered under a great white big top, and under sheets of shivering canopies that are all clapping in the brisk breeze which line the south side parking lot.

Across the street, in the north and historical area of the park is are sputtering antique engines, a display of majestic raptors put on by the Ontario Hawking Club, and pony rides for the kiddies.

All the park's dusty historical buildings are manned by "townspeople" who have been garbed in vintage clothing.

Various displays of old tools and weapons of old are presented and watched over by local area antique club members as they warm themselves by their campfires and lightheartedly joke amongst themselves.

This is a vibrant, yet subtly composed festival, one without the hype and holler of a massive crowddrawninng main stage. It's something the quiet surrounding communities can be proud to be a part of.

"There's always lots to see and do," says Hayward. "I think the word is spreading. It's a well-known event, and we have a good group of supporters that come out every year."

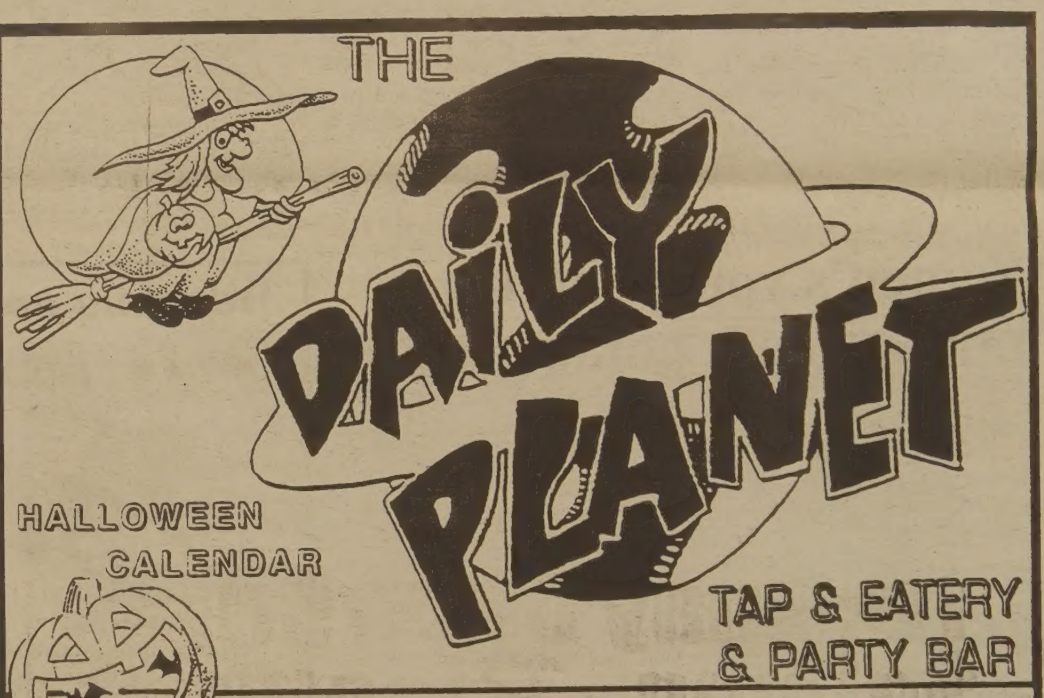
To take moment to step back and gander at all the commotion from high atop a nearby hill, at a distance far enough away to obscure the vivid modern day fashions, the scene below might bring one back to those wholesome days when life was hard, but equally happy.

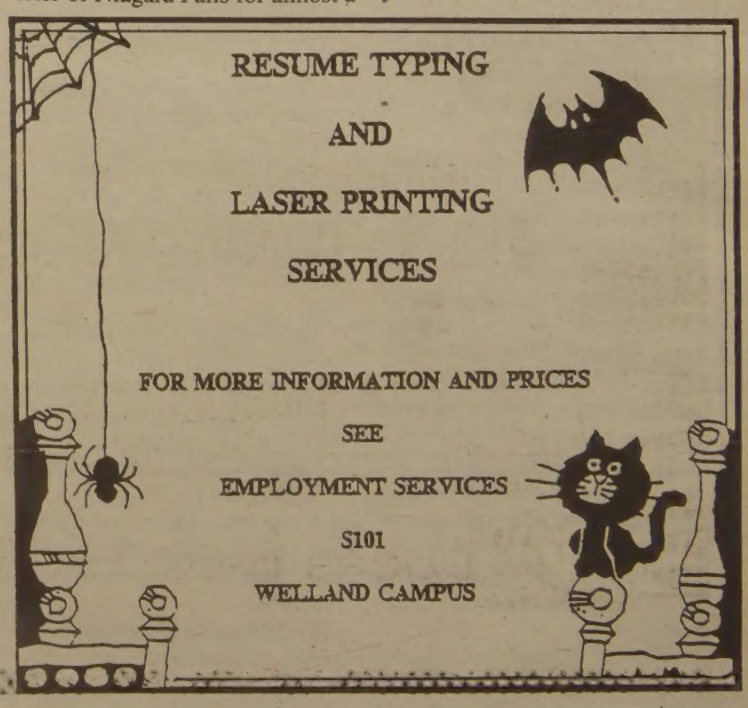
This is an occasion with an emphasis on yesteryear. It provides a spirited weekend trip to a serene setting during a season that breathes eternally of the sweeping passage of time.

For the sake of family, fun, and personal and cultural expression, bundling up in a warm woolly sweater and moseying on over to this festival is a trip worth taking, even if it is just in your own backyard.

Cathi Hebbard blushes the cheeks of little ones.

Photo by Adam Kieswetter





ENTERTAINMENT

Three comedians take over After Hours

By JEFF GARRETT
Staff Writer

One hundred per cent beef, 100 per cent comedy.

The 100% Grade "A" Alberta Beef Comedy Tour visited Niagara College on Oct.16.

An impressive crowd turned out to laugh at Cris Nannarone, Kevin Stobo and Andrew Grose.

Cris Nannarone, 31, of Calgary, Alta., was the first performer of the night.

Nannarone has performed comedy at the Club 54 Television Show and has opened for Kathy Mattea, Rich Hall and John Byner.

Nannarone performed at the Rivera Hotel Las Vegas, Nev., in August.

"It was tough performing there because you've got people from all over the world, but it was great."

Nannarone first began his comedy career in 1990 and by 1992 he turned professional.

"I was persuaded by my friends to start," he said. "I was kind of a smart ass, and it was also kind of a dare."

Performing at a school and a comedy club are "very similar," says Nannarone.

"The students are sharper though, they catch on quicker but they take offense first."

Nannarone has toured Canada. He said Edmonton and Calgary are his favorite cities.

He said the Northwest Territories was "a blast because they're so far away so they're really appreciative of you coming."

Kevin Stobo, 23, of Red Deer, Alta., was the second performer of the night.

"I've got a cool job because I'm 23. I get to see the country and I make pretty good money."

Oct. 16 was the young comedian's first visit to Niagara College.

"College crowds can be tougher than comedy clubs, but more intelligent," he said.

Stobo has performed on The Dini Petti Show, the Second City Comedy Troupe, and The Comedy Store in Los Angeles.

Stobo started doing comedy professionally at age 19.

"Saturday Night Live was the bible to me. It inspired me.

"I've been to a lot of places across Canada, but my favorite places I've performed for Yuk Yuk's are Edmonton and the Maritimes."

The final performer of the night was Andrew Grose, 37, of Edmonton.

This was Grose's second time performing at Niagara. He performed here last year at about the same time.

"This college gave me the idea of western comics because the paper headlined 'Western comics rock After Hours.'"

Grose has an MBA and a bachelor of commerce from Dalhousie University in Halifax.

"I was leaving jobs all the time looking for a new challenge, but they were all boring," said Grose, adding "then I realized I can get paid for doing comedy, so I did."

Grose's achievments include Comedy At Club 54 Television, The C.B.C. Alberta News, Much Music, The Calgary Stampede, The Peoples Comedy Festival, and much more.

Grose started doing comedy professionally in 1992.

"It's an easy way to make money if you know what you're doing. Plus, I love my job and not many people can say that.

"The only thing I find with comedy is that you have to win over the women at a school before you can win over the crowd because they tend to be more judgmental," said Grose.

From the Beef Comedy Tour, Grose said "Charolettetown was great. I've been there twice and the place was sold out both times. Plus it's my original home town."

Amy Whitteker, 20, of Welland, was among the full house Wednesday night at After Hours.

The second-year Operations Management program student at Niagara, said she's going to continue to attend comedy nights because "the show was great.

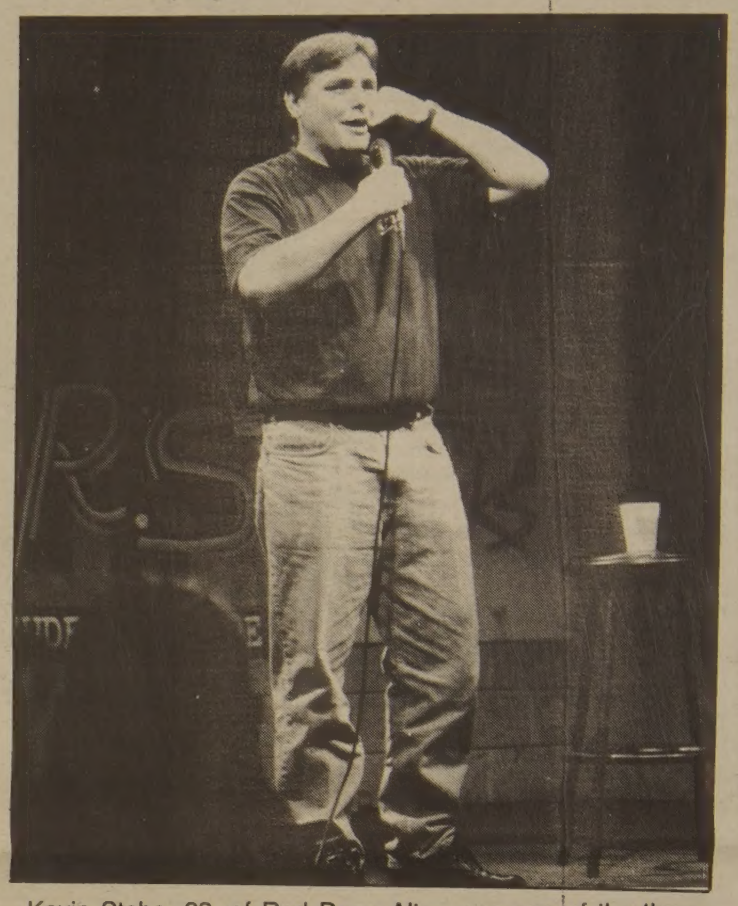
"It's an opportunity to be with friends and have a good time," said Whitteker.

"It's better this year because there are better comics and a better crowd."

Another student in attendance was Mark Cybula, 25, of St. Catharines.

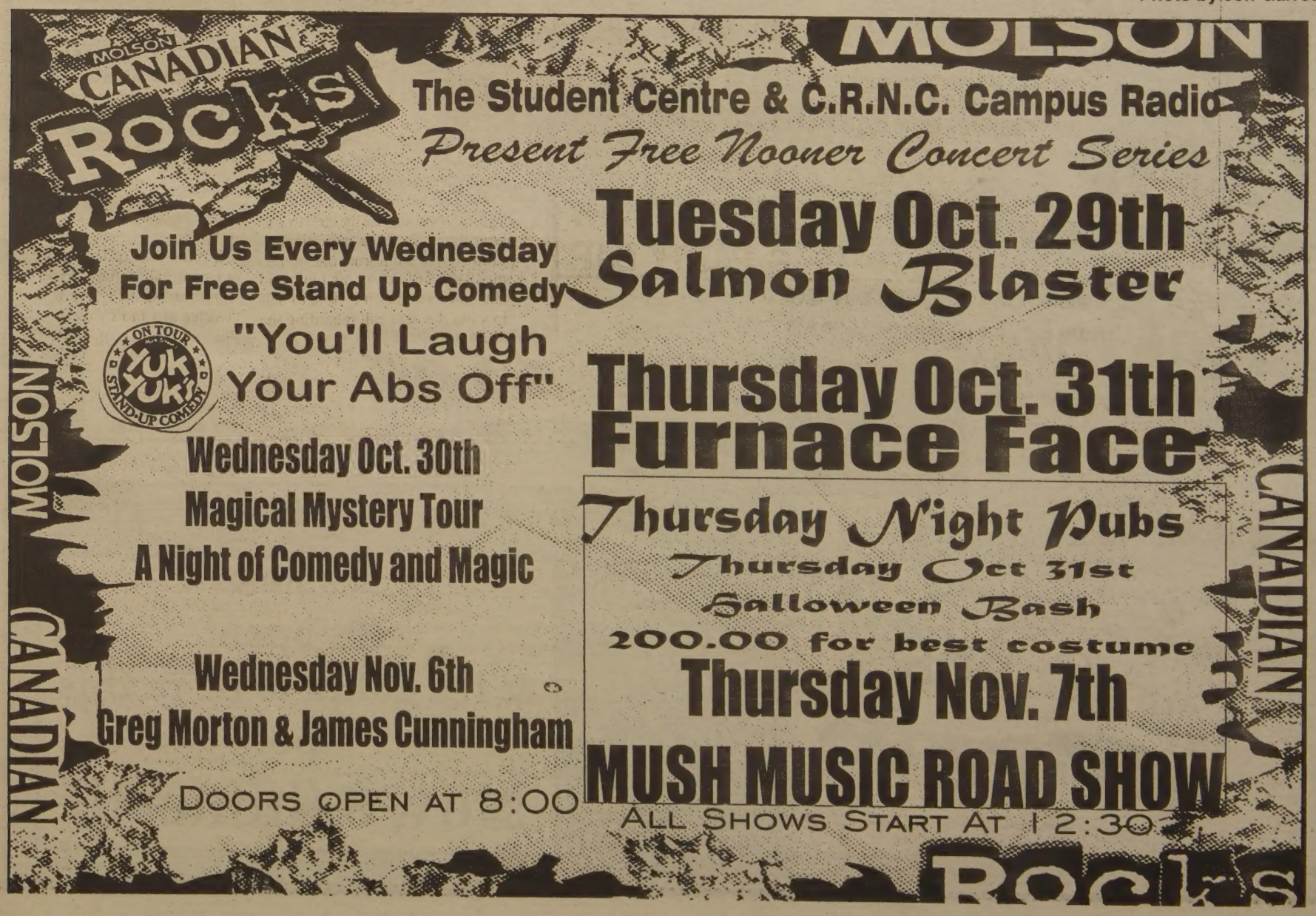
It was the second-year Business Operations program student's first time at a comedy night.

"I decided to come because the performers sounded like they were going to be good," said Cybula, adding he'll "probably continue to come."



Kevin Stobo, 23, of Red Deer, Alta., was one of the three comedians on Oct. 16 at After Hours.

Photo by Jeff Garrett



Food for Thought

By CHRISTINE TURMAINE
Staff Writer

After being open for less than a year, **The Red Onion** suffered a three-month closure as the result of a fire. Despite this misfortune, the restaurant owner, **John Panos**, took the bulls by the horn and reopened the eatery.

The Red Onion has now been opened for over six months and the faces are just as familiar. But business is booming and new faces arrive everyday.

Upon entering **The Red Onion** you can feel the mediterranean spirit encompass you.

A large sculpture of (what seems to be) a Greek goddess perched atop a wishing well is the first thing to catch your eye. The well is filled with change from previous customers and also has some foreign coins in it.

The restaurant is elegantly decorated with authentic mediterranean peices. Amongst them are large sealed jars filled to the rim with pickled artichokes, black olives and, of course, garlic cloves.

The cast iron meticulously placed throughout the restaurant gives the decor a final touch.

The restaurant has four quaint rooms, each having its own subtle characteristics. One of the rooms has a soothing fireplace while another has a large bar, which on some nights, bursts with activity.

The Red Onion also has a second floor. This floor is called The Fried Onion, appropriately named after the fire. The Fried Onion is a sports lounge, complete with darts, televisions and a pool table. It also has its own bar. The lounge can be reserved for a night if someone has an occasion which they would like to celebrate. If desired, they may also have their very own buffet, catered by **The Red Onion**, of course.

The menu at the eatery is quite vast. It boasts everything from chicken and seafood to steak and pasta.

Red Onion EATERY & BAR
'Mediteranean Cuisine'

If you are a person who, like myself, enjoys to sample appetizers than this is the place. There are more than 25 appetizers to choose from, each with its own mediterranean flair. The shrimp saganaki is my personal favorite. It is a blend of fresh herbs, tomatoes, onions, garlic, fetta cheese and wine sauteed shrimp served on a skillet. The best part? It's flambe with Metaxa liquer.

The Red Onion takes special care with every order. Nothing is premade, not even the pasta sauce. When pasta is ordered the chef begins with extra virgin olive oil, then adds fresh herbs and garlic. From there the vegetables (or whatever else is needed) are added. It is as fresh as it can get. The pasta is served al dente (to-the-tooth) as it should be. Firm and perfect.

All of the steak, chicken and seafood courses are served with mediterranean grilled vegetables and your choice of fries, penne pommodoro or the double-stuffed baked potato. The potato is by far the best choice. I have to share with you my favourite main course.

Red Onion stuffed chicken. It is a plump, juicy chicken breast, stuffed with fetta cheese, fresh herbs and spinach and topped with a creamy gorgonzola sauce. It is absolutely delicious.

All of the meals are served with a complimentary bread loaf.

The food prices are very reasonable, especially considering the quality of the food. The costs range from $2.95 for a cheesy Red Onion soup to $14.95 for a surf and turf. (Where else can you find steak and seafood this cheap?)

Panos has generously attatched a coupon to this page for students to receive half price off a meal when a second entree is purchased.

The Red Onion is open daily for lunch and dinner and there is plenty of parking.

So come out and experience the mediterranean flair that **The Red Onion** has to offer.

You won't be disappointed!

Some cheery staff at the Red Onion. From left: John Whitehead, Sarah Maude and Vicki Baraniuk.
Photo by Christine Turmaine.

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Paul Till in black and white

A bit like jazz

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

A stark white room is a perfect setting for works like these.

Emotive, highly-contrasted, and entirely in black and white, a display of photographic art by well-known Toronto photographer Paul Till are being showcased in his exhibit Actual Photos - 1973 to 1996.

The show is on display at the Arcadia Gallery, 680 Queen's Quay West in Toronto, until Oct. 26.

Although abstract and conceptual pieces are presented, the show is mainly a display of Till's more artistically flavored work.

"It's a bit like jazz. You see it, then you react to it," says the 43-year-old Toronto resident. "I like doing this kind of work, just wandering around and looking for things to happen."

Born in England, Till moved to Canada when he was four, and says he has been taking "artsy" photos since about 1971.

He graduated from Humber College's two-year photography program and started freelancing for magazines like Now and Toronto Life in the early '80s. He has since returned to the college to guest lecture and teach night classes.

The modest photographer has had a varied career in terms of both content and technique.

"I've always liked working with a lot a different techniques, and cameras and materials, and I'm going to continue to do that," says Till. "I'm not the kind of photographer that adheres to one style or one type of camera and format."

In addition to photographing bands, actors, and "concept" shots, Till says he's done a lot of shooting for school textbooks, but readily professes he gets pleasure from just wandering around and shooting "whatever comes along."

Till doesn't see his work as "terrifically intellectual," he says.

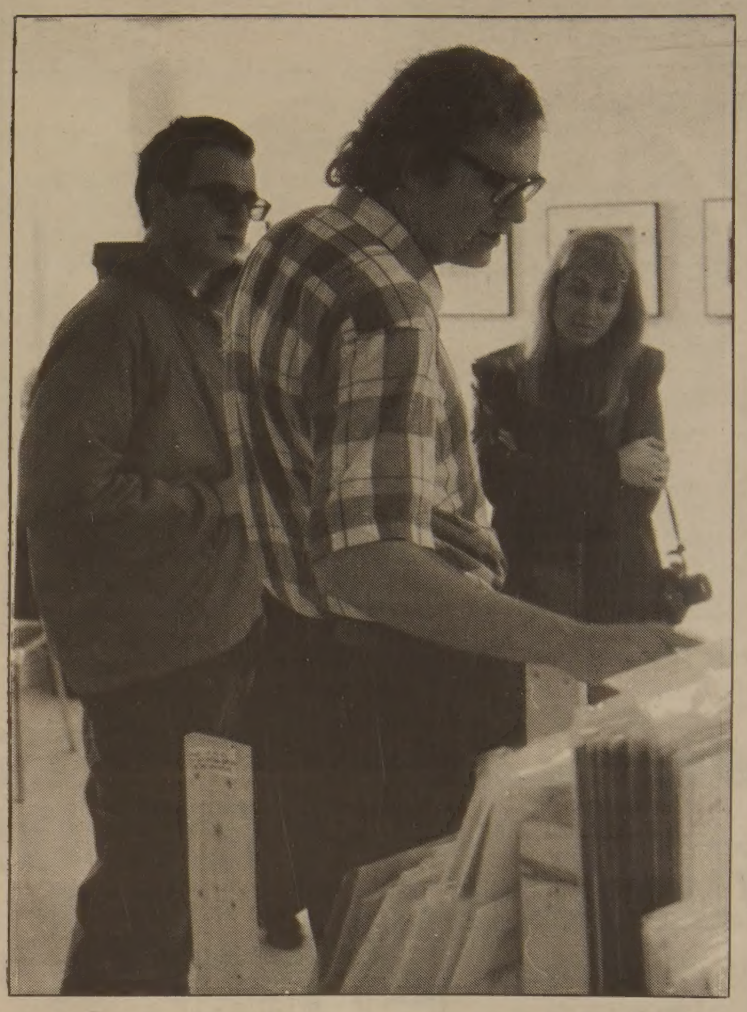
"I'm not confident that it's the best work in the world, but I am confident that it is good work."

A fan of Till's work, Niagara College photography instructor Carole Timm has been with the college since 1986.

"I first saw Paul Till's work about eight years ago, and it's always fresh," she says. "It's fine art photography with a documentary edge."

"I don't know what importance art has for society," says Till. "As far as asking the question Would a society be different if a particular artist hadn't existed?, I don't know. I know art has a significance, but I can't really say what . . . you just do these things."

He says he's influenced by some of the more "surreal artists" and sagely adds, "I think you're influenced by all the work you see—not only the works you see, but what you see in real life. You always take something from it."



From left: second-year Journalism-Print program student Adam Kieswetter, photographer Paul Till, and Photography-Journalism instructor Carole Timm.

Photo by Robert Hallett.

QEW survey

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Before sinking shovels into plans for the widening of the QEW in St. Catharines, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) will be conducting a random telephone survey to gauge Niagara Regional residents' response to the proposal.

Niagara Regional Council was advised at its Oct. 17 meeting about this first phase of the public consultation process.

The survey will reach 400 local area residents, 320 from St. Catharines, and 80 from Thorold, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls.

Lincoln Mayor Ray Konkle urged the particular importance of discussing the plans with those residents who will be directly affected by the widening project, such as those who live beside the QEW.

"They (surveyors) need to target the areas that they're going to impact," he said.

It was also suggested at the meeting that the MTO recognize the hectic traffic conditions at the eastbound exit ramp at Ontario Street.

The survey was conducted from Oct. 18 to Oct. 25 and data will be used to produce a report for regional council, giving them a better idea of how to proceed with the proposed expansion.

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Tigger climbs into the Halloween spirit.

Photo by Jennifer Harding

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NOV. 9 —*Planet Groove*
NOV. 16 — *Split Personality*

THE COOL PLACE TO BE! NEVER A COVER CHARGE

BUFS features confessions

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Chocolate syrup, piercing screams, and crawling cinematic suspense are all ingredients which make the myth which surrounds one of moving pictures most reputed, and ground-breaking directors.

The Brock University Film Society (BUFS) featured Alfred Hitchcock's rarely shown *I Confess* on Oct. 18.

The film was released in 1953, and shot entirely in Quebec City.

It contrives a mounting tension that reaches a surprisingly intense peak, considering the somewhat jaded condition a modern-day film devotee might find himself or herself in, after years of being subjected to the often severe productions offered by todays film industry.

The confession of a murderer to a handsome and humble young priest, leaves him agonizing due to the fact that his sacred vows won't permit him to divulge the secret. Even when approached and eventually charged by the police himself, he remains steadfast to his vows.

As the investigation intensifies, another scarlet secret is presented to the situation by way of the priest's beautiful, former lover—who was being blackmailed by the murdered man (a convenient but somewhat incriminating situation).

The characters are authentic and rich, and their performance isn't terribly overacted—a sometimes tedious drawback for a modern audiences who view early films.

Coinciding with the screening of Hitchcock's thriller, was the showing of Quebec director Robert Lepage's *Le Confessional*, on Sunday, Oct. 20.

Released in 1995, this tragic tale incorporates clips from Hitchcock's *I Confess,* and smoothly merges the arcane historical time line of a distraught, broken family. The story hops from the time line of Hitchcock's*I Confess* in 1953, to the the present tale in 1989.

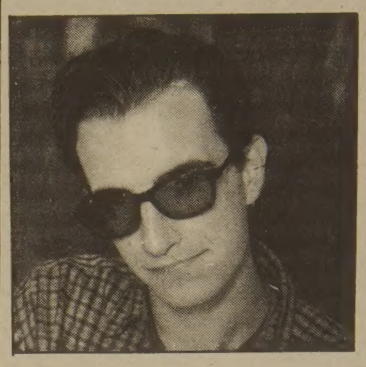
Le Confessional starts off slowly, but then snowballs into a complex web of emotion and deceit during the latter half of the film. It makes you wish you'd paid more attention to the subtle plot developments that propagated themselves earlier on.

With the resilient time line, jig-sawing together topics such as homosexuality, incest, substance abuse, religion, family values and dusky depression, this fluently flowing film is a stirring presentation for those who can appreciate a good mystery as well as the exposition of the seedier elements of human nature.

On Sunday, Oct. 27, BUFS will screen the 1995 film *Angels and Insects,* at the Town Cinemas at 1:30 p.m. For information call 688-5550 ext. 3257 or 3338.

Environmental angst

Misdemeanors against Mother Nature



By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Like mythological Atlas balancing the weight of the world on his back, our governments are comparatively laden with the load of a warped and teetering "seesaw."

On the short end of this knotted balancing board, is our haggard environment — falling prey to a financially frustrated provincial government which is methodically weed-whacking grassroots environmental protection laws and scads of government employees.

The federal government of course provides no shining example of environmental protection either. Apparently having placed environmental policy low on their list of "things to do," they have at least taken a baby-step in the right direction with an announcement by Environment Minister Sergio Marchi promising harsh penalties for those who menace endangered species.

The smug chap at the other end of the seesaw represent business. Catered to and powerful, he knows he'll never be ousted from his exalted and essential position.

Sneakily seeping torrents of pollutants into fragile ecosystems, and raping plush natural habitats like the Temagami old-growth forest, he's quite aloof to our quaint government regulations.

Armed with sharps shears, he's snipping away at the common thread we Canadians once clutched in confidence — that is, the national belief that we are an environmentally nurturing society.

We look on as "one of the most aggressive programs of tearing down environmental regulations in Canada" is quietly taking place, with the stripping of more than one-third of the staff of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

The province recently overruled a court decision to halt the expansion of an Acton quarry, by essentially "changing the law that the quarry was breaking."

Layoffs at the Ministry of Environment and Energy and at the Ministry of Natural Resources has lead to the prosecution of "eco-crimes" dropping off by half in Ontario.

Useless are laws that don't have operatives to champion them.

Hoeing up the roots of environmental policy in Ontario and showing leniency to corporate raptors does nothing but illustrate an alarming lack of governmental foresight.

The cost of mending environmental damage in the future, will surely surpass the irresponsible monetary benefits we now reap.

Resting high on the smug side of the "environment versus business" seesaw is little more than an economic joyride.

Holstering the cutting ax and enforcing present environmental standards is the best way to ensure the longevity of a healthy economy and a healthy environment.

Scorpio, you could be guarding your secrets too tightly

By PENNI TONEGUZZO and KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writers

Here are your horoscopes for the weekend of Oct. 25.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov.21)

The ability to keep secrets is an admirable trait, but you can over-do it when guarding your secrets. Sometimes it's helps to confide in others. Lucky numbers: 32, 12.

Sagitarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Don't be afraid to stand up for your belief in personal freedom. Just be aware you sometimes upset social order. Is this what you want? Lucky numbers: 17, 6.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your hard work this weekend will be duly rewarded. Why not let loose that off-beat sense of humor? You'll feel the better for it! Lucky numbers: 9, 18.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb.18)

Are you aware sometimes your closest loved one says sorry when it may be you who should be apologizing? Swallow your pride once in a while. Lucky numbers: 13, 63.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

It's been a while since you spent a quiet evening with your sweetie. The time alone could do wonders. Lucky numbers: 11, 33.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your high energy level causes you to act on impulse sometimes. You're human and making mistakes comes with the territory, so don't be too hard on yourself. Lucky numbers: 4, 29.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Plan a romantic evening with your spouse. Take a moonlit walk and whisper sweet nothings to each other. Lucky numbers: 7, 44.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Write a letter to an old friend. It will be unexpected and very appreciated. Lucky numbers: 5, 55.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Don't worry about others so much. Take a break from others' problems and concentrate on your own. Lucky numbers: 2, 16.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Join a club or team, you will find that your mind will expand and you will feel better about yourself. Lucky numbers: 1, 48.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You are working too hard. Take a break, relax, enjoy life at a slower pace for a while. Lucky numbers: 8, 69.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct.22)

Your decision about a recent problem has turned out well. You have good judgment. Keep it up. Lucky numbers: 3, 24.

Get spooked with a Halloween crossword puzzle

C	B	D	F	H	J	L	N	P	R	T	V	A	N	C	E	O	G	I	K	M	O	T	Q	S
H	O	B	C	U	G	N	I	K	N	E	H	P	E	T	S	J	K	Z	Q	L	E	X	B	Y
I	J	I	R	E	H	T	A	F	P	E	T	S	E	H	T	U	M	O	R	E	R	I	S	O
L	N	W	E	B	Z	L	S	R	J	U	L	I	W	A	R	C	A	R	R	I	E	O	B	E
D	R	T	H	S	X	U	H	P	R	A	O	B	O	L	B	E	H	T	A	R	T	S	L	Y
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C	H	A	I	N	S	A	W	M	A	S	S	A	C	R	E	A	B	D	E	G	I	K	M	A

BY PENNI TONEGUZZO
AMITYVILLE
CARRIE
CHAINSAW MASSACRE
CHILDREN OF THE CORN
CUJO
FREDDY KRUEGER
FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH
HALLOWEEN
HELLRAISER
HORROR HIGH
IT
JASON
MICHAEL MEYERS
MISERY
NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD
NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
PEOPLE UNDER THE STAIRS
PIECES
POLTERGEIST
SEVEN
STEPHEN KING
THE BLOB
THE STEPFATHER
THRILLER

The children came marching in

By RYAN BARBER
Staff Writer

Get out of the way adults, here come the children.

The Niagara College Child Care Centre held activites all week to celebrate **The Week of the Child.**

"It's basically a celebration informing the community of what we do," said Pat Eversden, manager of the Child Care Centre.

The week began with a kick-off parade with the E.L. Crossley Marching Band marching through the Welland campus with the children in tow.

"I think the kick-off parade was a real eye opener," said Eversden.

Other activities included children participating in a mall display at the Seaway Mall, a visit to the Market Square in Welland, and a photo day where the children had their pictures taken by Lighthouse Photography.

The special week is to reflect on the rights and needs of the children, renewing the communities' commitment to impove the quality of opportunities for children and their families, she said.

"We do a lot of things to bring attention to ourselves, so that people notice what we do and that we do have a well-needed service," said Eversden.

The Week of the Child is in its 17th year. It was declared Week of the Child by Welland city council.

"The Week of The Child" was kicked off by the E.L. Crossley marching band.
Photo by Ryan Barber

'It's basically a celebration informing the community of what we do.'
- Pat Eversden

A member of the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO) went to council and made a presentation.

"All the politicians are now all very aware of what our association does," said Eversden. "We certainly have increased a lot of knowlege in Niagara."

The AECEO has a commitee "which specifically focuses on The Week of the Child."

Adults involved in this activity will have a chance to get together at a dance Friday night at the college.

"Not only do we do things with kids but we do things with each other, just to bond and communicate," said Eversden.

The Week of the Child was established in 1979.

A youngster from the child care centre takes part in the parade.
Photo by Ryan Barber

Hanging with Wendy Luce

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

Tacked to a bulletin board on the side wall beside Wendy Luce's desk is a sticker which says, "Is this what I wanted to be when I grew up?"

The 42-year-old St. Catharines resident teaches in the Human Relations program.

Luce says the most challenging aspect of her job is handling the shift in careers. She started out as a journalist.

Originally from Toronto, she went to Humber College in Etobicoke for her first year of journalism.

After her first year of college, Luce got a summer job at the St. Catharines Standard.

"I didn't think I would be able to get a job at a Toronto paper."

She says she came to the Niagara area because her paternal grandparents live in the area and she knew she would have a place to stay.

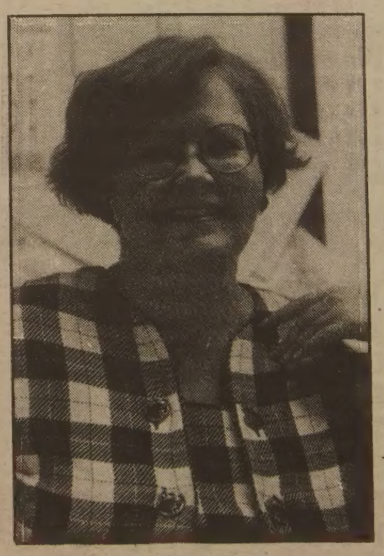
While in the area, Luce went on a tour of The Standard's editing and production offices. She gave a copy of her resume to Larry Smith, the city editor at the time.

"He showed me a drawer full of applications and basically said, 'thanks, but no thanks.'"

The summer job she eventually got at the newspaper in St. Catharines came as a result of an essay Luce wrote.

During her initial visit, she mentioned her essay and agreed to send a copy to Smith. She says she thought he asked out of courtesy, but it could not hurt to follow through.

The essay, for which Luce says she received "a decent mark," discussed broadcast news versus print news.



WENDY LUCE

Smith sent the copy of the essay back to her with his positive comments and a starting date for her summer job.

Luce says she liked the Niagara area so she decided to stay and finish her education here.

Luce graduated from the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College in 1974.

She then went to work for The Standard full time for three years.

Just beside her bulletin board is a framed cover of the **Let's Talk Business** magazine, which Luce was editor of before it "ceased publication."

She says the cover is not from her first nor favorite issue. "It's the one with my son on the cover."

In 1992, Luce returned to teach at Niagara. She taught cook entrepreneurial skills to adults at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

About her first day of teaching at Niagara, Luce says, "I don't know who was more scared — them (the students) or me.

"The biggest parallel between journalism and teaching is the information distribution," she says, adding "this process of sharing information (teaching) is more fun."

Also on the bulletin board is a *Far Side* calendar which adds some humor to her busy schedule.

Aside from her teaching duties, Luce also works part time as program assistant for the Child and Youth Worker and Correction Worker programs.

Outside of the college, Luce says she is trying to do some freelance writing.

She is an active volunteer for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation and the Kidney Foundation, Niagara district chapter.

"If it's a good cause, I can't say no."

Making it big

By COLIN HUNEAULT
Staff Writer

A former Niagara College student is in charge of the historical Academy Theatre in Lindsay, Ont.

Ray Marshall, a graduate from the now-defunct college Theatre Centre, manages the 700 hundred-seat complex.

Marshall, who was enrolled in the Stage Management, Lighting and Sound program, began working part time at the Lindsay theatre in 1975, after a chance meeting with his employer in Calgary.

Marshall, along with his classmates, was given a four-month placement across Canada and Britain.

Marshall took his placement at Theatre Calgary.

The long distances from home forced students to adapt to their situation.

"If you couldn't hack it, too bad," said Marshall. "There wasn't anywhere to go."

The academy was built in 1892 as the Lindsay Opera House, says old newspaper clippings displayed in the lobby of the theatre. It was billed as "the best acoustical theatre in Canada."

The brochure prepared for the theatre makes reference to the visitors being left speechless after touring the facility.

The theatre proudly displays posters and articles of famous entertainers, such as a young Sammy Davis Jr., the Marx brothers, children's icon Mr. Dressup, and singer Rita MacNeil.

Lindsay Theatre's web site says in 1956 the facility was forced to closed its doors because of a more successful counterpart — the Century Theatre.

Fearing the building would be demolished, Lindsay initiated a campaign to raise funds to purchase and restore the historical site.

The Academy Theatre Foundation was formed to manage and maintain the building.

Marshall said the complex is being used for public meetings, music shows, children productions and concerts.

Like many historical sites, the theatre is rich in folklore.

Marshall said many people have claimed to see a spirit roaming about the theatre.

"Doors have opened by themselves and items have gone missing," said Marshall.

He said the staff has named the ghost Mary and that she watches over the building.

"If you listen carefully, you may hear Mary inviting you to return to the theatre," said Marshall with a grin.

With or without Mary, the beautifully-decored theatre has plenty to offer its visitors.